

81-2/221

THE
HISTORY
OF
King *LEAR*.

Revived with ALTERATIONS.

By *N. TATE*.

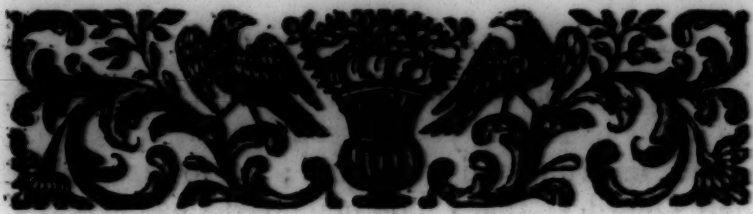


D U B L I N:

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To my Esteemed Friend

Thomas Boteler, Esq;

S I R,

YOU have a natural Right to this Piece, since by your Advice I attempted the Revival of it with Alterations. Nothing but the Power of your Persuasions, and my Zeal for all the Remains of SHAKESPEAR, cou'd have wrought me to so bold an Undertaking. I found that the new modelling of this Story, would force me sometimes on the difficult Task of making the chiefeſt Perſons ſpeak ſomething like their Character, on Matter whereof I had no Ground in my Author. LEAR's real and EDGAR's pretended Madneſs had ſo much of *extravagant Nature*, (I know not how elſe to expreſſit,) as cou'd never have ſtarted but from our SHAKESPEAR's creating Fancy. The Images and Language are ſo odd and ſurprizing, and yet ſo agreeable and proper, that whiſt we grant that none but SHAKESPEAR cou'd have form'd ſuch Conceptions; yet we are ſatisfied that they were the only Things in the World

D E D I C A T I O N.

that ought to be said on those Occasions. I found the whole to answer your Account of it, a Heap of Jewels, unstrung and unpolish'd; yet so dazzling in their Disorder, that I soon perceived I had seiz'd a Treasure. 'Twas my good Fortune to light on one Expedient to rectify what was wanting in the Regularity and Probability of the Tale, which was to run through the whole, as *Love* betwixt *EDGAR* and *CORDELIA*; that never chang'd word with each other in the Original. This renders *CORDELIA*'s Indifference, and her Father's Passion in the first Scene, probable. It likewise gives Countenance to *EDGAR*'s Disguise, making that a generous Design that was before a poor Shift to save his Life. The Distress of the Story is evidently heightened by it; and it particularly gave Occasion of a new Scene or Two, of more Success (perhaps) than Merit. This Method necessarily threw me on making the Tale conclude in a Success to the innocent distress'd Persons: Otherwise I must have incumbered the Stage with dead Bodies, which Conduct makes many Tragedies conclude with unseasonable Jest. Yet was I wrack'd with no small Fears for so bold a Change, till I found it well received by my Audience; and if this will not satisfy the Reader, I can produce an Authority that

Mr. Dryd. questionless will. *Neither is it so Tri-*
Preface to *val an Undertaking to make a Tragedy end*
the Spanish *happily, for 'tis more difficult to save than*
Fryar. *'tis to Kill: The Dagger and Cup of*
Poison are always in readiness; but to bring the Ac-
tion to the last Extremity, and by probable Means to
recover All, will require the Art and Judgment of a
Writer, and cost him many a Pang in the Performance.

I have one Thing more to Apologize for, which is, that I have us'd less Quaintness of Expression even in the newest Parts of this Play. I confess, 'twas Design in me, partly to comply with my
Author's

DEDICATION.

Author's Style, to make the Scenes of a Piece, and partly to give it some Resemblance of the Time and Persons here Represented. This, Sir, I submit wholly to you, who are both a Judge and Master of Style. Nature had exempted you before you went Abroad from the Morose Saturnine Humour of our Country, and you brought home the Refinedness of Travel without the Affectation. Many Faults I see in the following Pages, and question not but you will discover more; yet I will presume so far on your Friendship, as to make the whole a Present to you, and Subscribe my self,

Your obliged Friend

and humble Servant,

N. TATE.



PROLOGUE.

SINCE by Mistakes your best delights are made,
(For e'en your Wives can please in Masquerade,)
'Twere worth our while, to've drawn you in this Day,
By a new Name to our old honest Play;
But he that did this Evening's Treat prepare,
Bluntly resolv'd before-hand to declare
Your Entertainment should be most old Fare.
Yet hopes, since in rich Shakespear's Soil it grew,
'Twill relish yet, with those whose Tastes are true,
And his Ambition is to please a Few.
If then this Heap of Flow'rs shall chance to wear
Fresh Beauty in the Order they now bear,
Even this Shakespear's Praise; each Rustick knows
'Mongst plenteous Flow'rs a Garland to compose.
Which strung by this Course Hand may fairer show,
But 'twas a Power Divine first made 'em grow.
Why shou'd these Scenas lie hid, in which we find
What may at once divert and teach the Mind;
Morals were always proper for the Stage,
But are ev'n necessary in this Age.
Poets must take the Churches Teaching Trade,
Since Priests their Province of Intrigue invade;
But we the worse in this exchange have got,
In vain our Poets Preach, whilst Churchmen Plat.

EPILOGUE.

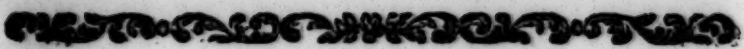


A N

EPILOGUE.

Spoken by Mrs. B A R R Y.

I Nconstancy, the reigning Sin o' th' Age,
Will scarce endure true Lovers on the Stage,
You hardly, even in Plays with such dispence,
And Poets kill 'em in their own Defence.
Yet one bold Proof I was resolv'd to give,
That I cou'd three Hours Constancy out-live.
You fear, perhaps, whilst on the Stage w're made
Such Saints, we shall indeed take up the Trade;
Sometimes we threaten, — but our Virtue may
For Truth, I fear, with your Pit-Valour weigh:
For (not to flatter either) I much doubt
When we are off the Stage, and you are out.
We are not quite so coy, nor you so stout.
We talk of Nunn' ries — But to be sincere
Whoever lives to see us chisler'd there,
May hope to meet our Criticks at Tangier.
For shame give over this inglorious Trade
Of worrying Poets, and go maul th' Alcade.
Well — since y'are all for blustering in the Pit,
This Play's Reviewer humbly do's admit
Your absolute Pow'r to damn his Part of it:
But still so many Master-Touches shine
Of that vast Hand that first laid this Design,
That in great Shakespear's Right he's bold to say,
If you like nothing you have seen To-day,
The Play your Judgment damns, not you the Play.



Dramatis Personæ.

M E N.

<i>King Lear,</i>	<i>Mr. Barry.</i>
<i>Gloster,</i>	<i>Mr. Layfield:</i>
<i>Kent,</i>	<i>Mr. Walker.</i>
<i>Edgar,</i>	<i>Mr. Dexter.</i>
<i>Bastard,</i>	<i>Mr. Sowdon.</i>
<i>Cornwall,</i>	<i>Mr. Reed.</i>
<i>Albany,</i>	<i>Mr. White.</i>
<i>Gentleman Usher,</i>	<i>Mr. Vernon.</i>

W O M E N.

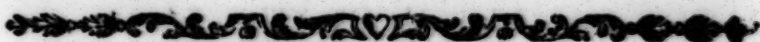
<i>Goneril,</i>	<i>Mrs. Jefferson:</i>
<i>Regan,</i>	<i>Mrs. Pye.</i>
<i>Cordelia,</i>	<i>Mrs. Dancer.</i>

Guards, Officers, Messengers, Attendants,

King.



King L E A R.



A C T. I.

Enter Bastard Solus.

Bastard.

TH O U Nature art my Goddeſs, to thy Law
My Services are bound; why am I then
Depriv'd of a Son's Right, becauſe I came

not

In the dull Road that Cuſtom has preſcrib'd?
Why Baſtard, wherefore Baſe, when I can boaſt
A Mind as gen'rous, and a Shape as true,
As honeſt Madam's Iſſue? Why are we
Held Baſe, who in the luſty ſtealth of Nature
Take fiercer Qualities than what compound
The ſcanted Births of the ſtale Marriage-bed?
Well then, Legitimate *Edgar*, to thy Right
Of Law I will oppoſe a Baſtard's Cunning.
Our Father's Love is to the Baſtard *Edmund*
As to Legitimate *Edgar*: with Succeſs
I've practis'd yet on both their eaſie Natures:
Here comes the old Man chaſt with th' Information
Which laſt I forg'd againſt my Brother *Edgar*;
A Tale ſo plauſible, ſo boldly utter'd,

A 5

And

And heightened by such lucky Accidents,
That now the slightest Circumstance confirms him,
And base-born *Edmund* spight of Law inherits.

Enter Kent, and Gloucester.

Gloft. Nay, good my Lord, your Charity
O'er-shoots it self to plead in his behalf;
You are your self a Father, and may feel
The sting of Disobedience from a Son
First-born and best belov'd: Oh Villain *Edgar*!

Kent. Be not too rash, all may be forgery,
And time yet clear the Duty of your Son.

Gloft. Plead with the Seas, and reason down the Winds,
Yet shalt thou ne'er convince me I have seen
His foul Designs through all a Father's fondness:
But be this Light and thou my Witnesse,
That I discard him here from my Possessions,
Divorce him from my Heart, my Blood, and Name.

Bast. It works as I could wish; I'll shew my self.

Gloft. Ha! *Edmund*! welcome Boy; O *Kent*! see here
Inverted Nature, *Gloucester's* Shame and Glory,
This By-born, the wild sally of my Youth,
Nay, weep not, *Edmund*, for thy Brother's Crime;
O gen'rous Boy! thou shar'st but half his Blood,
Yet lov'st beyond the kindness of a Brother:
But I'll reward thy Vertue. Follow me.
My Lord, you wait the King, who comes resolv'd
To quit the Toils of Empire and divide
His Realms amongst his Daughters; Heavens succeed it;
But much I fear the Change.

Kent. I grieve to see him
With such wild starts of Passion hourly seiz'd,
As render Majesty between it self.

Gloft. Alas! 'tis the Infirmary of his Age,
Yet has his Temper ever been unfixt,
Chol'rick and sudden; hark, they approach.

(Exeunt Glost. and Bast.)

Flour.

King L E A R.

I I

Flourish. Enter Lear, Cornwall, Albany, Burgundy, Edgar, Goneril, Regan, Cordelia, Edgar speaking to Cordelia at Entrance.

*Edgar. Cordelia, Royal Fair, turn yet once more,
And e'er successful Burgundy receive
The Treasures of thy Beauties from the King,
E'er happy Burgundy for ever fold Thee,
Cast back one pitying Look on wretched Edgar.*

*Cord. Alas! What would the wretched Edgar with
The more unfortunate Cordelia?
Who in obedience to a Father's Will
Flies from her Edgar's Arms to Burgundy's?*

*Lear. Attend my Lords of Albany and Cornwall,
With Princely Burgundy.*

Alb. We do, my Liege.

Lear. Give me this Map—Know, Lords, we have divided

*In Three our Kingdom, having now resolv'd
To disengage from our long Toil of State,
Conferring all upon your younger Years;
You Burgundy, Cornwall, and Albany,
Long in our Court have made your amorous sojourn,
And now are to be answer'd.—Tell me, my Daughters,
Which of you loves Us most, that we may place
Our largest Bounty with our largest Merit.
Goneril, Our Eldest-born, speak first.*

*Gon Sir, I do love you more than Words can utter,
Beyond what can be valu'd Rich, or Rare;
Nor Liberty, nor Sight, Health, Fame, or Beauty,
Are half so dear, my Life for you were vile,
As much as Child can Love the best of Fathers.*

*Lear. Of all these Bounds, e'en from this Line to this,
With shady Forests, and wide-skirted Meads,
We make thee Lady; to thine and Albany's Issue
Be this perpetual—What says our second Daughter?*

*Reg. My Sister, Sir, in part express my Love;
For such as her's, is mine, though more extended;
Sense has no other Joy that I can relish,
I have my All in my dear Liege's Love.*

Lear;

Lear. Therefore to thee and thine Hereditary,
Remain this ample third of our fair Kingdom.

Cord. Now comes my Trial, how am I distressed,
That must with cold Speech tempt the Chol'rick King;
Rather to leave me Dowerless, than condemn me,
To loath'd Embraces. *(Aside)*

Lear. Speak now our last, not least in our dear Love,
So ends my Task of State.——*Cordelia*, speak;
What canst thou say to win a richer third
Than what thy Sisters gain'd?

Cord. Now must my Love in Words fall short of theirs:
As much as it exceeds in Truth, Nothing, my Lord.

Lear. Nothing can come of Nothing, speak again.

Cord. Unhappy am I, that I cannot dissemble,
Sir, as I ought, I love your Majesty,
No more nor less.

Lear. Take heed, *Cordelia*,
Thy Fortunes are at stake, think better on't;
And mend thy Speech a little.

Cord. O my Liege;
You gave me Being, bred me, dearly lov'd me,
And I return my Duty as I ought,
Obey you, love you, and most honour you;
Why have my Sisters Husbands, if they love you All?
Haply when I shall wed, the Lord whose Hand,
Shall take my Plight, will carry half my Love;
For I shall never marry like my Sisters,
To love my Father All.

Lear. And goes thy Heart with this?
'Tis said that I am Chol'rick, Judge me, Gods,
Is there not cause? Now, Minion, I perceive
The Truth of what has been suggested to us;
Thy fondness for the Rebel Son *Gloster*,
False to his Father, as thou art to my Hopes:
And, oh! take heed, rash Girl, lest we comply
Which thy fond Wishes, which thou wilt too late
Repent; for know, our Nature cannot brook
A Child so young, and so ungentle.

Cord. So young, my Lord, and True.

Lear. Thy Truth then be thy Dow'r;

For:

King L E A R.

13

For by the sacred Sun and solemn Night,
I here disclaim all my paternal Care,
And from this minute hold thee as a Stranger;
Both to my Blood and Favour.

Kent. This is Frenzy.

Consider, good my Liege, ———

Lear. Peace, *Kent*;

Come not between a Dragon and his Rage;
I lov'd her most, and in her tender Trust
Design'd to have bestow'd my Age at Ease:
So be my Grave my Peace, as here I give
My Heart from her, and with it all my Wealth:
My Lords of *Cornwall*, and of *Albany*,
I do invest you jointly in full Right
In this fair Third; *Cordelia's* forfeit Dow'r.
Mark me, my Lords, observe Our last Resolve,
Our Self, attended with an hundred Knights,
Will make Abode with you in monthly Course;
The Name alone of King remain with me,
Yours be the Execution and Revenues;
This is our final Will, and to confirm it,
This Coronet part between you.

Kent. Royal *Lear*,

Whom I have honour'd as my King,
Lov'd as my Father, as my Master follow'd,
And, as my Patron, thought on in my Prayers. ———

Lear. Away, the Bow is bent, make from the shaft.

Kent. No, let it fall and drench within my Heart,
Be *Kent* unmannerly when *Lear* is mad:

Thy youngest Daughter ———

Lear. On thy Life no more.

Kent. What wilt thou do, old Man?

Lear. Out of my Sight.

Kent. See better first.

Lear. Now by the Gods, ———

Kent. Now by the Gods, rash King,
Thou swear'st in vain.

Lear. Ha Traytor!

Kent. Do, kill thy Physician, *Lear*;
Strike through my Throat, yet with my latest Breath.

FII

I'll thunder in thine Ear my just Complaint,
And tell thee to thy Face that thou dost ill.

Lear. Hear me, rash Man; on thy Allegiance hear me;
Since thou hast striv'n to make Us break our Vow,
And prest between our sentence and our Pow'r,
Which not our Nature nor our Place can bear,
We banish thee for ever from our Sight
And Kingdom; if when Three days are expir'd,
Thy hated Trunk be found in our Dominions,
That moment is thy Death; away.

Ken. Why, fare thee well, King; since thou art resolv'd,
I take thee at thy word, and will not stay
To see Thy Fall: the Gods protect the Maid
That truly thinks, and has most justly said.
'Thus to new Climates my old truth I bear,
Friendship lives Hence, and Banishment
Is here.

(*Exit.*)

Lear. Now, *Burgundy*, you see her price is fall'n,
Yet if the fondness of your Passion still
Affects her as she stands, Dow'rless, and lost
In our Esteem, she's yours; take her, or leave her.

Burg. Pardon me, Royal *Lear*, I but demand
The Dow'r your self propos'd, and here I take
Cordelia by the Hand, Dutcheß of *Burgundy*.

Lear. Then Leave her, Sir, for by a Father's rage
I tell you all her Wealth: Away.

Burg. Then, Sir, be pleased to charge the breach
Of our Alliance on your own Will,
Not my Inconstancy.

(*Exeunt. Manent Edgar and Cordelia.*)

Edg. Has Heaven then weigh'd the merit of my Love,
Or is't the raving of my sickly thought?
Cou'd *Burgundy* forego so rich a Prize,
And leave her to despairing *Edgar's* Arms?
Have I thy Hand *Cordelia*? Do I clasp it?
The Hand that was this minute to have joyn'd
My hated Rival's? Do I kneel before thee,
And offer at thy Feet my panting Heart?
Smile, Princess, and convince me; for as yet
I doubt, and dare not trust the dazzling Joy.

Cord.

Cord. Some Comfort yet, that 'twas no vicious Blot
That has depriv'd me of a Father's Grace,
But meerly want of that which makes me rich
In wanting it; a smooth professing Tongue:
O Sisters! I am loth to call your fault
As it deserves; but use our Father well,
And wrong'd *Cordelia* never shall repine.

Edg. O heavenly Maid! that art thy self thy Dow'r,
Richer in vertue than the Stars in Light,
If *Edgar's* humble Fortunes may be grac'd
With thy Acceptance, at thy feet he lays 'em.
Ha, my *Cordelia*! dost thou turn away?
What have I done t'offend Thee?

Cord. Talk'd of Love.

Edg. Then I've offended oft, *Cordelia* too
Has oft permitted me so to offend.

Cord. When, *Edgar*, I permitted your Addresses,
I was the darling Daughter of a King,
Nor can I now forget my Royal Birth,
And live dependant on my Lover's Fortune;
I cannot to so low a Fate submit;
And therefore study to forget your passion,
And trouble me upon this Theme no more.

Edg. Thus Majesty takes most State in Distress!
How are we tost on Fortune's fickle flood!
The Wave that with surprizing Kindness brought
The dear wreck to my Arms, has snatch'd it back,
And left me mourning on the barren Shore.

Cord. This baseness of th' ignoble *Burgundy*, (*Aside.*
Draws just suspicion on the Race of Men;
His Love was Int'rest, so may *Edgar's* be.
And He, but with more Compliment, dissemble;
If so I shall oblige him by denying:
But if his Love be fixt, such constant Flame
As warms our Breasts, if such I find his Passion,
My Heart as grateful to his Truth shall be,
And cold *Cordelia* prove as Kind as He. (*Exit.*

Enter Bastard hastily.

Bast. Brother, I've found you in a lucky minute,

Fly.

Fly and be safe, some Villain has incens'd
Our Father against your Life.

Edg. Distress'd *Cordelia*! but, oh! more Cruel.

Bast. Hear me, Sir, your Life, your Life's in Dangers.

Edg. A Resolve so sudden,
And of such black Importance!

Bast. 'Twas not sudden;
Some Villain has of long time laid the Train.

Edg. And yet perhaps 'twas but pretended Coldness,
To try how far my Passion would pursue.

Bast. He hears me not; wake, wake, Sir.

Edg. Say ye, Brother? ———
No Tears, good *Edmund*, if thou bringest me Tidings
To strike me dead, for Charity delay not;
That present will besit so kind a Hand.

Bast. Your danger, Sir, comes on so fast;
That I want time to inform you; but retire,
Whilst I take care to turn the pressing Stream:
O Gods! for Heav'n's sake, Sir.

Edg. Pardon me, Sir. a serious Thought
Had seiz'd me, but I think you talk'd of danger;
And wish'd me to retire; Must all our Vows
End thus? — Friend, I obey you. — O *Cordelia*! (*Exit*.)

Bast. Ha! ha! fond Man, such credulous Honesty
Lessens the Glory of my Artifice;
His Nature is so far from doing wrongs,
That he suspects none: If this Letter speed,
And pass for *Edgar's*, as himself wou'd own
The Counterfeit, but for the foul Contents,
Then my designs are perfect. — Here comes *Gloster*.

Enter Gloster.

Gloster. Stay, *Edmund*, turn; What Paper were you
reading?

Bast. A Trifle, Sir.

Gloster. What needed then that terrible dispatch of it
Into your Pocket? Come, produce it, Sir.

Bast. A Letter from my Brother, Sir, I had
Just broke the Seal, but knew not the Contents;
Yet, fearing they might prove to blame,

Endea-

Endeavour'd to conceal it from your sight.

Gloſt. 'Tis *Edgar's* Character.

(*Reads.*

This Policy of Fathers is intolerable, that keeps our Fortunes from us till Age will not ſuffer us to enjoy 'em; I am weary of the Tyranny: Come to me, that of this I may ſpeak more. If our Father would Sleep till I wak'd him, you ſhould enjoy half his Poſſeſſions and live beloved of your Brother Edgar.

Slept till I wak'd him! you ſhould enjoy
Half his Poſſeſſions!——*Edgar* to write this
'Gainſt his indulgent Father! Death and Hell!
Fly, *Edmond*, ſeek him out, wind me into him,
That I may bite the Traytor's Heart, and fold
His bleeding Entrails on my vengeful Arm.

Baſt. Perhaps 'twas writ, my Lord, to prove my Virtue.

Gloſt. Theſe late Eclipſes of the Sun and Moon
Can bode no leſs; Love cools and Friendſhip fails,
In Cities Mutiny, in Countries Diſcord,
The bond of Nature crack'd 'twixt Son and Father:
Find out the Villain; do it carefully;
And it ſhall loſe thee nothing.

(*Exit.*

Baſt. So, now my Project ſ firm; but to make ſure
I'll throw in one proof more, and that's a bold one;
I'll place old *Gloſter* where he ſhall o'er-hear us
Confer of this Deſign; whiſt, to his thinking,
Deluded *Edgar* ſhall accuſe himſelf.
Be Honeſty my Intereſt, and I can
Be honeſt too: And what Saint ſo Divine,
That will ſucceſſful Villany decline?

[*Exit.*

Enter Kent diſguiſ'd.

Kent. Now, baniſh'd *Kent*, if thou canſt pay thy Duty
In this diſguiſe, where thou doſt ſtand condemn'd,
Thy Maſter *Lear* ſhall find thee full of Labours.

Enter Lear attended.

Lear. In there, and tell our Daughter we are here.
Now, What art Thou?

Kent. A Man, Sir.

Lear. What doſt thou profeſs, or wou'dſt with us?

Kent.

Kent. I do profess to be no less than I seem, to serve him truly that puts me in Trust, to love him that's honest, to converse with him that's wise and speaks little, to fight when I can't chuse; and to eat no Fish.

Lear. I say, What art Thou?

Kent. A very honest hearted fellow, and as poor as the King.

Lear. Then art thou poor indeed. — What canst thou do?

Kent. I can keep honest Counsel, mar a curious Tale in the telling, deliver a plain Message bluntly; that which ordinary Men are fit for, I am qualify'd in; and the best of me is Diligence.

Lear. Follow me; thou shalt serve me.

Enter one of Goneril's Gentlemen.

Now Sir?

Gent. Sir ———— (*Exit; Kent runs after him.*)

Lear. What says the Fellow? Call me the Clodpole back:

Att. My Lord, I know not, but methinks your Highness is entertained with slender Ceremony.

Servant. He says, my Lord, your Daughter is not well.

Lear. Why came not the Slave back when I call'd him?

Serv. My Lord, he answer'd me i' th' surliest manner, That he wou'd not.

Re-enter Gentleman brought in by Kent.

Lear. I hope our Daughter did not so instruct him: Now, who am I, Sir?

Gent. My Lady's Father.

Lear. My Lord's Knave. — (*Strikes him.*)

Goneril at the Entrance.

Gon. By Day and Night, this is insufferable, I will not bear it.

Lear. Now, Daughter, why that frontlet on? Speak, does that Frown become our Presence?

Gent. I'll not be struck, my Lord.

Kent. Nor tript neither, thou vile Civet-box.

(*Strikes up his heels.*)

Gon. Sir, this licentious Insolence of your Servants

Is most unseemly, hourly they break out
In quarrels bred; by making this known to you,
I thought t' have had a Redress, but find too late
That you protect and countenance their out-rage;
And therefore, Sir, I take this freedom, which
Necessity makes Discreet.

Lear. Are you our Daughter?

Gon. Come, Sir, let me intreat you to make use
Of your Discretion, and put off betimes
This Disposition that of late transforms you
From what you rightly are.

Lear. Do's any here know me? why, this is not *Lear*;
Does *Lear* walk thus? speaks thus? where are his Eyes?
Who is it that can tell me who I am?

Gon. Come, Sir, this Admiration's much o' th' favour
Of other your new humours; I beseech you
To understand my Purposes aright;
As you are old, you shou'd be staid and wise;
Here do you keep an hundred Knights and Squires,
Men so debauch'd and bold, that this our Palace
Shews like a riotous Inn, a Tavern, Brothel;
Be then advis'd by her that else will take
That which she begs, to lessen your Attendance,
Take half away, and see that the remainder
Be such as may besit your Age, and know
Themselves and you.

Lear. Darknes and Devils!
Saddle my Horses, call my Train together;
Degenerate Viper, I'll not stay with Thee!
I yet have left a Daughter.——Serpent, Monster!
Lessen my Train, and call 'em riotous?
All men approv'd, of choice and rarest Parts,
That each particular of duty know.——
How small, *Cordelia*, was thy Fault? O *Lear*,
Beat at this Gate that let thy Folly in,
And thy dear Judgment out; Go, go, my People.

(Going off meets Albany entering.)

Ingrateful Duke, was this your will?

Alb. What Sir?

Lear. Death, fifty of my Followers at a clap!

Alb.

Alb. The matter, Madam ?

Gon. Never afflict yourself to know the Cause;
But give his Dotage way.

Lear. Blasts upon thee,

Th' untainted woundings of a Father's Curse
Pierce ev'ry sense about Thee ; old fond Eyes,
Lament this Cause again, I'll pluck ye out,
And cast ye with the Waters that ye lose
To temper Clay. — No, *Gorgon*, thou shalt find
That I'll resume the Shape which thou dost think
I have cast off for ever.

Gon. Mark ye that.

Lear. Hear Nature !

Dear Goddess hear ; and if thou dost intend
To make the Creature fruitful, change thy Purpose ;
Pronounce upon her Womb the Barren Curse,
That from her blasted Body never spring
A Babe to honour her ; — But if she must bring forth,
Defeat her Joy with some distorted Birth
Or Monstrous Form, the Prodigy o' th' Time,
And so perverse of Spirit, that it may live
Her Torment as 'twas born, to fret her Cheeks
With constant Tears, and wrinkle her young Brow.
Turn all her Mothers Pain's to Shame and Scorn,
That she may curse her Crime too late, and feel
How sharper than a Serpent's Tooth it is
To have a thankless Child : Away, away.

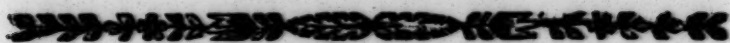
(Exit cum suis.)

Gon. Presuming thus upon his numerous Train,
He thinks to play the Tyrant here, and hold
Our Lives at will.

Alb. Well, you may bear too far.

[Exit.]

A C T



A C T II.

S C E N E, *Gloster's* House.*Enter Bastard.*

Bast. **T**HE Duke comes here to Night, I'll take Advantage

Of his Arrival to compleat my Project:
 Brother, a Word, come forth; 'tis I your Friend,

Enter Edgar.

My Father watches for you, fly this Place,
 Intelligence is giv'n where you're hid;
 Take the Advantage of the Night; bethink ye,
 Have you not spoke against the Duke of *Cornwall*
 Something might shew you a Favourer of
 Duke *Albany's* Party?

Edg. Nothing; why ask you?

Bast. Because he's coming here to Night in haste,
 And *Regan* with him—Hark! the Guards away.

Edg. Let 'em come on, I'll stay and clear myself.

Bast. Your Innocence at leisure may be heard,
 But *Gloster's* storming Rage as yet is deaf,
 And you may perish e'er allow'd the hearing.

(Exit Edgar.)

Gloster comes yonder: Now to my feign'd Scuffle—
 Yield, come before my Father! Lights here, Lights!
 Some Blood drawn on me wou'd beget Opinion

(Stabs his Arm.)

Of our more fierce Encounter.——I have seen
 Drunkards do more than this in sport.

Enter Gloster and Servants.

Gloster. Now, *Edmund*, where's the Traytor?

Bast. That Name, Sir,

Strikes

Strikes Horror through me ; but my Brother, Sir,
Stood here i'th' Dark.

Gloſt. Thou bleed'ſt ! purſue the Villain,
And bring him piece-meal to me.

Baſt. Sir, he's fled.

Gloſt. Let him fly far, this Kingdom ſhall not hide him;
The noble Duke, my Patron, comes to Night;
By his Authority I will proclaim
Rewards for him that brings him to the Stage,
And Death for the Concealer.
Then of my Lands, loyal and natural Boy,
I'll work the means to make thee capable. [*Exeunt.*

Enter Kent (diſguiſ'd ſtill) and Goneril's Gentleman, ſeverally.

Gent. Good morrow Friend, belong'ſt thou to this
Houſe ?

Kent. Ask them will answer thee.

Gent. Where may we ſet our Horſes ?

Kent. I'th' Mire.

Gent. I am in haſte, prithee an' thou lov'ſt me, tell me.

Kent. I love thee not.

Gent. Why then I care not for Thee.

Kent. An' I had thee in *Lipsbury* Pinfold, I'd make
thee care for me.

Gent. What doſt thou mean ? I know thee not.

Kent. But, Minion, I know thee.

Gent. What do'ſt thou know me for ?

Kent. For a baſe, proud, beggarly, white-liver'd, glaſs-
gazing, ſuperſerviceable finical Rogue ; one that wou'd be
a Pimp in way of good Service, and art nothing but a
Compoſition of Knave, Beggar, Coward, Pandar,——

Gent. What a monſtrous Fellow art thou to rail at one
that is neither known of thee, nor knows thee ?

Kent. Impudent Slave ! not know me, who but two
Days ſince tript up thy Heels before the King : Draw,
Miſcreant, or I'll make the Moon ſhine through thee.

Gent. What means the Fellow ?——Why prithee,
prithee ; I tell thee I have nothing to do with thee.

Kent.

Kent. I know your Rogueship's Office ; you come with Letters against the King, taking my young Lady *Vanity's* part against her Royal Father : Draw, Rascal.

Gent. Murther, murther, help. [*Exit Kent after him.*]

Flourish. Enter Duke of Cornwall, Regan, attended.
Gloster, Bastard.

Gloster. All welcome to your Graces, you do me honour.

Duke. *Gloster*, W'have heard with Sorrow that your Life has been attempted by your Impious Son : But *Edmund* here has paid you strictest Duty.

Gloster. He did betray his Practice, and receiv'd The Hurt you see, striving to apprehend him.

Duke. Is he pursu'd ?

Gloster. He is, my Lord.

Reg. Use our Authority to apprehend The Traytor, and do Justice on his Head ; For you, *Edmund*, that have so signaliz'd Your Vertue, you from henceforth shall be ours ; Natures of such firm Trust we much shall need, A charming Youth, and worth my farther Thought.

(*Aside.*)

Duke. Lay Comforts, noble *Gloster*, to your Breast, As we to ours, this Night be spent in Revels, We chuse you, *Gloster*, for our Host to Night, A troublesome Expression of our Love. On, to the Sports before us——Who are these ?

Enter the Gentleman pursu'd by Kent.

Gloster. Now, what's the matter ?

Duke. Keep peace upon your Lives, he dies that strikes. Whence, and what are ye ?

Att. Sir, they are Messengers, the one from your Sister, the other from the King.

Duke. Your Difference ? Speak.

Gent. I'm scarce in breath, my Lord.

Kent. No marvel, you have so bestir'd your Valour. Nature disclaims the Dastard ; a Taylor made him.

Duke. Speak yet, how grew your Quarrel ?

Gent.

Gent. Sir, this old Russian here, whose Life I spar'd
In pity to his Beard ———

Kent. Thou Essence Bottle!

In pity to my Beard ——— Your leave my Lord,
And I will tread the Musk-Cat into Mortar,

Duke. Know'st thou our presence?

Kent. Yes, Sir, but Anger has a Privilege.

Duke. Why art thou angry?

Kent. That such a Slave as this shou'd wear a Sword
And have no Courage; Office, and no Honesty;
Not Frost and Fire hold more Antipathy
Than I and such a Knave.

Gloſt. Why dost thou call him Knave?

Kent. His Countenance likes me not.

Duke. No more perhaps does Mine, nor His or Hers.

Kent. Plain dealing is my Trade, and to be plain, Sir,
I have seen better Faces in my time,
Than stands on any Shoulders now before me.

Reg. This is some Fellow, that having once been prais'd
For Bluntness, since affects a saucy Rudeness;
But I have known one of these surly Knaves,
That in his plainness harbour'd more Design
Than twenty cringing, complimenting Minions.

Duke. What's th' Offence you gave him?

Gent. Never any, Sir,
It pleas'd the King his Master lately
To strike me on a slender Misconstruction,
Whilst watching his Advantage, this old Lurcher
Tript me behind, for which the King extoll'd him;
And, flush'd with the Honour of this bold Exploit,
Drew on me here again.

Duke. Bring forth the Stocks, we'll teach you.

Kent. Sir, I'm too old to learn;
Call not the Stocks for me, I serve the King,
On whose Employment I was sent to you,
You'll shew too small respect, and too bold Malice
Against the Person of my Royal Master,
Stocking his Messenger.

Duke,

Duke. Bring forth the Stocks, as I have Life and Honour,

There shall he sit till Noon.

Reg. Till Noon, my Lord? till Night, and all Night too.

Kent. Why Madam, If I were your Father's Dog, You wou'd not use me so.

Reg. Sir, being his Knave, I will.

Gloſt. Let me beseech your Graces to forbear him, His Fault is much, and the good King his Master Will check him for't, but needs must take it ill To be thus slighted in his Messenger.

Duke. We'll answer that; Our Sister may receive it worse to have Her Gentleman assaulted: to our Business lead. *(Exit.*

Gloſt. I am sorry for thee, Friend, 'tis the Duke's pleasure, Whose Disposition will not be control'd, But I'll entreat for thee.

Kent. Pray do not, Sir—— I have watch'd and travell'd hard, Some time I shall sleep out, the rest I'll whistle: Farewell t'ye, Sir. *(Exit Gloſt.*

All weary and o'er watch'd, I feel the drowzy Guest steal on me; take Advantage heavy Eyes on this kind Slumber, Not to behold this vile and shameful Lodging.

(Sleeps.)

Enter Edgar.

Edg. I heard my self Proclaim'd, And by the friendly hollow of a Tree, Escape the Hunt; no Port is free, no Place Where Guards and most unusual Vigilance Do not attend to take me—how easie now, 'Twere to defeat the Malice of my Trale, And leave the Griets on my Sword's reeking Point; But Love detains me from Death's peaceful Cell, Still whispering me, *Cordelia's* in distress; Unkind as she is, I cannot see her wretched, But must be near to wait upon her Fortune.

B

Who

Who knows but the white Minute yet may come,
 When *Edgar* may do service to *Cordelia*;
 That charming hope still ties me to the Oar
 Of painful Life, and makes me to submit
 To the humblest Shifts to keep that Life a-foot;
 My Face I will besmear, and knit my Locks,
 The Country gives me proof and president
 Of *Bedlam* Beggars, who with roaring Voices
 Strike in their numb'd and mortify'd bare Arms
 Pins, Iron-spikes, Thorns, Sprigs of Rosemary;
 And thus from Sheep-coats Villages and Mills,
 Sometimes with Prayers, sometimes with Lunatick Bans
 Enforce their Charity; poor *Tyrligod*, poor *Tom*.
 That's something yet, *Edgar* I am no more. (Exit.

Kent in the Stocks still: Enter Lear attended.

Lear. 'Tis strange that they should so depart from
 home,
 And not send back our Messenger.

Kent. Hail, noble Master.

Lear. How! Mak'st thou this shame thy pastime?
 What's he that so much mistook thy Place
 To set thee here?

Kent. It is both He and She, Sir, your Son and Daughter.

Lear. No.

Kent. Yes.

Lear. No, I say.

Kent. I say yea.

Lear. By *Jupiter*, I swear no.

Kent. By *Juno*, I swear, I swear Ay.

Lear. They durst not do't;

They cou'd not, wou'd not do't; 'tis worse than Murder

To do upon respect such violent outrage.
 Resolve me with all modest haste, which way
 Thou mayst deserve, or they impose this usage?

Kent. My Lord, when at their Home
 I did commend your Highness Letters to them,

'E'er I was ris'n, arriv'd another Post,
 Steer'd in his haste, breathless and panting soth
 From *Goneril*, his Mistress Salutations,
 Whose Message being deliver'd they took Horse,
 Commanding me to follow, and attend
 The leisure of their Answer; which I did:
 But meeting that other Messenger,
 Whose Welcome I perceiv'd had poison'd mine,
 Being the very Fellow that of late
 Had shewn such Rudeness to your Highness, I
 Having more Man than Wit about me, Drew,
 On which he rais'd the House with Coward's Cries:
 This was the Trespass, which your Son and Daughter
 Thought worth the Shame you see it suffer here.

Lear. Oh! how this Spleen swells upward to my
 Heart,

And heaves for Passage.—Down, thou climbing Rage,
 Thy Element's below; where is this Daughter?

Kent. Within, Sir, at a Masque.

Enter Gloster.

Lear. Now *Gloster*? ——— Ha!

Deny to speak with me; th' are sick, th' are weary,
 They have travell'd hard to Night;—meer Fetches;
 Bring me a better Answer.

Gloster. My dear Lord,
 You know the fiery Quality of the Duke. ———

Lear. Vengeance, Death, Plague, Confusion;
 Fiery! what Quality! ——— Why *Gloster*, *Gloster*,
 I'd speak with the Duke of *Cornwall*, and his Wife.

Gloster. I have inform'd 'em so.

Lear. Inform'd 'em! Dost thou understand me, Man?
 I tell thee, *Gloster* ———

Gloster. Ay, my good Lord.

Lear. The King would speak with *Cornwall*, the dear
 Father
 Wou'd with his Daughter speak, commands her Ser-
 vice.

Are they inform'd of this? My Breath and Blood!

Fiery! the fiery Duke! Tell the hot Duke ———

No, but not yet, may be he is not well,

Infirmity does still neglect all Office;
 I beg his Pardon, and I'll chide my Rashness,
 That took the indispos'd and sickly Fit
 For the sound Man: — But wherefore sits he there?
 Death on my State, this Act convinces me
 That this Retiredness of the Duke and her
 Is plain Contempt: Give me my Servant forth;
 Go tell the Duke and his Wife I'd speak with 'em,
 Now, instantly bid 'em come forth and hear me;
 Or at the Chamber Door I'll beat the Drum,
 Till it cry sleep to Death. —

Enter Cornwall and Regan.

O! oh! are ye come?

Duke. Health to the King.

Reg. I am glad to see your Highness.

Lear. *Regan*, I think you are, I know what Cause
 I have to think so; shou'd'st thou not be glad
 I wou'd divorce me from thy Mother's Tomb?
 Beloved *Regan*, thou wilt shake to hear
 What I shall utter: Thou could'st ne'er ha' thought it,
 Thy Sister's naught, O *Regan*, she has ty'd
 (Kent here set at Liberty.)

Ingratitude like a keen Vulture here,
 I scarce can speak to thee.

Reg. I pray you, Sir, take patience; I have hope
 That you know less to value her Desert,
 Than she to slack her Duty.

Lear. Ha! How's that?

Reg. I cannot think my Sister in the least
 Would fail in her Respects; but if perchance
 She has restrain'd the Riots of your Followers,
 'Tis on such Grounds, and to such wholesome Ends,
 As clear her from all Blame.

Lear. My Curses on her.

Reg. O Sir, you're old,
 And shou'd content you to be rul'd and led,
 By some Discretion that discerns your State
 Better than your self; therefore, Sir,
 Return to our Sister, and say you have wrong'd her.

Lear.

Lear. Ha! Ask her Forgiveness?
 No, no, 'twas my Mistake, thou did'st not mean so?
 Dear Daughter I confess that I am old;
 Age is unnecessary, but thou art good,
 And wilt dispence with my Infirmary.

Reg. Good Sir, no more of these unsightly Passions;
 Return back to our Sister.

Lear. Never, *Regan*,
 She has abated me of half my Train,
 Look'd black upon me, stabb'd me with her Tongue;
 All the stor'd Vengeances of Heav'n fall
 On her ingrateful Head; strike her young Bones
 Ye taking Airs with Lameness.

Reg. O the blest Gods! Thus will you wish on me,
 When the rash Mood ———

Lear. No, *Regan*, thou shalt never have my Curse,
 Thy tender Nature cannot give thee o'er
 To such Impiety; thou better know'st
 The Offices of Nature, Bond of Childhood,
 And Dues of Gratitude; thou bear'st in Mind
 The half o'th' Kingdom, which our Love conferr'd
 On thee and thine.

Reg. Good Sir, to the purpose.

Lear. Who put my Man i'th' Stocks?

Duke. What Trumpet's that?

Reg. I know't, my Sister's, this confirms her Letters
 Sir, is your Lady come?

Enter Goneril's Gentlemen.

Lear. More Torture still?

This is a Slave, whose easie borrow'd Pride
 Dwells In the sickle Grace of her he follows;
 A fashion-fop, that spends the Day in dressing,
 And all to bear his Lady's flatt'ring Message;
 That can deliver with a Grace her Lye,
 And with as bold a Face bring back a greater.
 Out, Varlet, from my Sight.

Duke. What means your Grace?

Lear. Who stock'd my Servant; *Regan*, I have hope
 Thou didst not know it.

Enter Goneril.

Who comes here? O Heav'ns!
 If you do love Old Men; if you sweet Sir
 Allow Obedience; if your selves are Old,
 Make it your Cause, send down and take my Part?
 Why, Gorgon, do'st thou come to hunt me here?
 Art not asham'd to look upon this Beard?
 Darkness upon my Eyes, they play me false,
 O *Regan*, wilt thou take her by the Hand?
Gon. Why not by th' Hand, Sir? How have I offended?
 All's not Offence that Indiscretion finds,
 And Dotage terms so.

Lear. Heart, thou art too tough.

Reg. I pray you Sir, being old confesse you are so,
 If till the Expiration of your Month,
 You will return and sojourn with our Sister,
 Dismissing half your Train, come then to me;
 I am now from Home, and out of that Provision,
 That all be needful for your Entertainment.

Lear. Return with her, and fifty Knights dismiss,
 No, rather I'll forswear all Roofs, and chuse
 To be Companion to the Midnight Wolf.
 My naked Head expos'd to th' merc'less Air,
 Than have my smallest Wants supply'd by her.

Gon. At your Choice, Sir.

Lear. Now I prethee Daughter do not make me mad;
 I will not trouble thee, my Child, farewell.
 We'll meet no more, no more see one another;
 Let Shame come when it will, I do not call it,
 I do not bid the Thunder-bearer strike,
 Nor tell Tales of thee to avenging Heav'n;
 Mend when thou canst, be better at thy Leisure,
 I can be patient, I can stay with *Regan*,
 I, and my hundred Knights.

Reg. Your Pardon, Sir,
 I look'd not for you yet, nor am provided
 For your fit welcome.

Lear. Is this well spoken now?

Reg.

Reg. My Sister treats you fair ; what ! fifty Followers ?
Is it not well ? What shou'd you need of more ?

Gon. Why might not you, my Lord, receive Attendance

From those whom she calls Servants, or from mine ?

Reg. Why not, my Lord ? If then they chance to
slack you,

We cou'd controul 'em. ——— If you come to me,

For now I see the Danger, I entreat you

To bring but Five and Twenty ; to no more

Will I give place.

Lear. Hold now, my Temper, stand this Bolt unmov'd,
And I am Thunder Proof ;

The Wicked, when compar'd with the more Wicked,
Seem beautiful, and not to be the worst,

Stands in some Rank of Praise ; now, *Generil*,

Thou art innocent agen, I'll go with thee ;

Thy Fifty yet, does double Five and Twenty,

And thou art twice her Love.

Gon. Hear me, my Lord,
What need you Five and Twenty, Ten or Five,
To follow in a House, where twice so many
Have a Command t'attend you ?

Reg. What need one ?

Lear. Blood ! Fire ! here ——— Leprosies and bluest
Plagues !

Room, room for Hell to belch her Horrors up

And drench the *Circes* in a Stream of Fire ;

Heark how th' Infernals eccho to my Rage

Their Whips and Snakes. ———

Reg. How lewd a Thing is Passion !

Gon. So old and stomachful.

(*Lightning ad Thunder.*)

Lear. Heav'ns drop your Patience down ;

You see me here, ye Gods, a poor old Man,

As full of Grievs as Age, wretched in both ———

I'll bear no more : You unnatural Hagg,

I will have such Revenues on you both,

That all the World shall — — I will do such Things,

What they are yet I know not, but they shall be

The Terrors of the Earth ; you think I'll weep

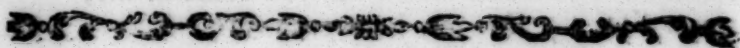
(Thunder again.)

This Heart shall break into a thousand Pieces

Before I'll weep. — O Gods! I shall go mad. *(Exit.)*

Duke. 'Tis a wild Night, come out of the Storm.

(Exeunt.)



A C T III.

S C E N E, A Desert Heath.

Enter Lear and Kent in the Storm.

Lear. **B**LOW Winds, and burst your Cheeks, rage
louder yet,

Fantastick Lightning singe, singe my white Head ;
Spout Cataracts, and Huricanoes fall,
Till you have drown'd the Towns and Palaces
Of proud ingrateful Man.

Kent. Not all my best Intreaties can perswade him
Into some needful Shelter, or to bide
This poor slight Cov'ring on his aged Head,
Expos'd to this wild War of Earth and Heav'n.

Lear. Rumble thy fill, fight whirlwind, Rain and Fire ;
Not Fire, Wind, Rain, or Thunder are my Daughters ;
I tax not you, ye Elements, with Unkindness ;
I never gave you Kingdoms, call'd you Children ;
You owe me no obedience, then let fall
Your horrible Pleasure, here I stand your Slave,
A poor, infirm, weak, and despis'd old Man ;
Yet will I call you servile Ministers,
That have with two pernicious Daughters join'd
Their high engendred Battle against a Head
So Old and White as mine. Oh ! oh ! 'tis foul.

Kent. Hard by, Sir, is a Hovel, that will lend
Some Shelter from this Tempest.

Lear.

King L E A R.

33

Lear. I will forget my Nature, what ! so kind a Father ?
Ay, there's the Point.

Kent. Consider, good my Liege, Things that love
Night

Love not such Nights as this ; these wrathful Skies
Frighten the very Wanderers o' th' Dark,
And make 'em keep their Caves ; such drenching Rain,
Such Sheets of Fire, such Claps of horrid thunder,
Such Groans of roaring Winds have ne'er been known.

Lear. Let the Great Gods,
That keep the dreadful Pudder o'er our Heads,
Find out their Enemies now. Tremble thou Wretch,
That hast within thee undiscover'd Crimes ?
Hide that bloody Hand, ———
Thou perjur'd Villain, holy Hypocrite,
That drink'st the Widows Tears, sigh now, and cry
These dreadful Summoners Grace, I am a Man
More sinn'd against than sinning.

Kent. Good Sir, to th' Hovel.

Lear. My Wit begins to burn.
Come on my Boy, how dost my Boy ; art Cold ?
I'm cold myself ; shew this Straw, my Fellow,
The Art of our Necessity is strange,
And can make vile Things precious ; my poor Knave,
Cold as I am at Heart, I've one Place there
That's sorry yet for Thee. (Exeunt.

Gloster's Palace. Enter Bastard.

Bast. The Storm is in our louder Rev'lings drown'd,
Thus wou'd I reign, cou'd I but mount a Throne,
The Riots of these proud Imperial Sisters
Already have impos'd the galling Yoke
Of Taxes, and hard Impositions on
The drudging Peasant's Neck, who bellow out
Their loud Complaints in vain.—Triumphant Queens !
With what Assurance do they treat the Crowd.
O for a Taste of such Majestick Beauty,
Which none but my hot Veins are fit t'engage ;
Nor are my Wishes desp'rate, for even now,

B. 5

During

During the Banquet, I observ'd their Glances:
 Shot thick at me, and as the left they Room
 Each cast by stealth a kind inviting Smile,
 The happy Earnest.—ha!

Two Servants from several Entrances deliver him each a Letter, and Exit.

Where Merit is so transparent, not to behold it. (*Reads.*
 Were Blindness, and not to reward it Ingratitude.

GONERIL.

Enough; Blind, and Ingrateful should I be
 Not to obey the Summons of this Oracle.
 Now for a second Letter.

(*Opens the other.*

If Modesty be not your Enemy, doubt not to (*Reads.*
 Find me your Friend.. REGAN.

Excellent Sibyl! O my glowing Blood!
 I am already sick of Expectation,
 And pant for the Possession.—Here *Gloster* comes.

With Bus'ness on his Brow; be hush'd, my Joys.

Gloster. I come to seek thee, *Edmund*, to impart a Busi-
 ness of Importance; I know thy loyal Heart is touch'd
 to see the Cruelty of these ingrateful Daughters against
 our Royal Master.

Bast. Most savage and unnatural.

Gloster. This Change in the State sits uneasy. The Com-
 mons repine aloud at their female Tyrants, already they
 cry out for the re-instalment of their good old King,
 whose Injuries I fear will inflame 'em into mutiny.

Bast. 'Tis to be hop'd not fear'd.

Gloster. Thou hast it Boy, 'tis to be hop'd indeed:
 On me they cast their Eyes, and hourly court me
 To lead 'em on; and whilst this Head is mine
 I'm theirs. A little covert Craft, my Boy,
 And then for open Action; 'twill be Employment
 Worthy such honest daring souls as thine.

Thou *Edmund*, art my trusty Emissary,
 Haste on the Spur at the first Break of Day

(*Gives him Letters.*
 With.

With these Dispatches to the Duke of *Cambray* ;
 You know what mortal Feuds have always flam'd
 Between this Duke of *Cornwall*'s Family, and his ;
 Full twenty Thousand Mountaineers
 Th' inveterate Prince will send to our Assistance,
 Dispatch ; Commend us to his Grace, and prosper.

Bast. Yes, credulous old Man,
 I will commend you to his Grace,
 His Grace, the Duke of *Cornwall* ——— instantly
 To shew him these Contents in thy own Character.
 And Seal'd with thy own Signet ; then forthwith
 The Chol'rick Duke gives Sentence on thy Life ;
 And to my Hand thy vast Revenues,
 To glut my Pleasure, that till now has starv'd.

*Gloster going off is met by Cordelia entring, Bastard ob-
 serving at a Distance.*

Cord. Turn, *Gloster*, turn, by the sacred Pow'rs
 I do conjure you, give my Grievs a hearing.
 You must, you shall, nay I am sure you will,
 For you were always stild the Just and Good.

Gloster. What wou'dst thou, Princess? Rise, and speak
 thy Grievs.

Cord. Nay, you shall promise to redress 'em too,
 Or here I'll kneel for ever ; I entreat
 Thy Succour for a Father, and a King,
 An injur'd Father, and an injur'd King.

Bast. O charming sorrow ! how her Tears adorn her,
 Like Dew on Flow'rs, but she is virtuous,
 And I must quench this hopeless Fire i'th' Kindling.

Gloster. Consider, Princess,
 For whom thou begg'st, 'tis for the King that wrong'd
 Thee.

Cord. O name not that ; he did not, cou'd not wrong me.
 Nay, muse not, *Gloster*, for it is too likely
 This injur'd King e'er this, is past your Aid,
 And gone distracted with his savage Wrongs.

Bast. I'll gaze no more ; — and yet my Eyes are charm'd.

Cord. Or, what if it be worse ;
 As 'tis too probable, this furious Night

Has pierc'd his tender Body, the bleak Winds
 And cold Rain chill'd, or Light'ning struck him Dead;
 If it be so, your Promise is discharg'd,
 And I have only one poor Boon to beg.
 That you'd convey me to his breathless Trunk,
 With my torn Robes to wrap his hoary Head,
 With my torn Hair to bind his Hands and Feet,
 Then with a Show'r of Tears
 To wash his Clay-smear'd Cheeks, and dye beside him.

Gloſt. Rise, fair *Cordelia*, thou hast Piety
 Enough t' atone for both thy Sisters Crimes.
 I have already plotted to restore
 My injur'd Master, and thy Virtue tells me
 We shall succeed and suddenly.

(Exit.

Cord. Dispatch. *Arante*,
 Provide me a Disguise, we'll instantly
 Go seek the King, and bring him some Relief.

Ar. How Madam? Are you ignorant
 Of what your impious Sisters have decreed?
 Immediate Death for any that relieve him.

Cord. I cannot dread the Furies in this Case.

Ar. In such a Night as this? Consider, Madam,
 For many Miles about there's scarce a Bush
 To shelter in.

Cord. Therefore no shelter for the King,
 And more our Charity to find him out:
 What have not Women dar'd for vicious Love?
 And we'll be shining Proofs that they can dare
 For Piety as much. Blow Winds, and Light'nings fall,
 Bold in my Virgin Innocence, I'll flie
 My Royal Father to relieve, or dye.

(Exit.

Bast. Provide me a Disguise, we'll instantly
 Go seek the King:— ha! ha! a lucky Change,
 That Virtue which I fear'd would be my Hind'rance,
 Has prov'd the Bond to my Design;
 I'll bribe two Ruffians shall at a Distance follow,
 And seize 'em in some desert Place; and there
 Whilst one retains her, t'other shall return
 T' inform me where she's lodg'd; I'll be disguis'd too
 Whilst they are poching for me, I'll to the Duke

With

With these Dispatches, then to the Field,
 Where like the vig'rous *Jove* I will enjoy
 This *Semele* in a Storm, 'twill deaf her Cries:
 Like Drums in Battle, lest their Groans should pierce
 My pitying Ear, and make the amorous Fight less fierce.
 (*Exit.*)

Storm still. Enter Lear and Kent.

Kent. Here is the Place my Lord; good my Lord; enter;
 The Tyranny of this open Night's too rough
 For Nature to endure.

Lear. Let me alone.

Kent. Good my Lord, enter.

Lear. Will't break my Heart?

Kent. Beseech you, Sir,

Lear. Thou think'st 'tis much that this contentious
 Storm

Invades us to the Skin; so 'tis to thee;
 But where the greater Malady is fixt,
 The lesser is scarce felt: The Tempest in my Mind
 Does from my Senses take all feeling else,
 Save what beats there. Filial Ingratitude!
 Is it not as this Mouth shou'd tear this Hand
 For lifting Food to't? — But I'll punish; home?
 No, I will no more; in such a Night
 To shut me out, — Pour on, I will endure
 In such a Night as this: O *Regan, Goneril!*
 Your old kind Father, whose frank Heart gave all;
 O that Way Madness lies; let me shun that;
 No more of that.

Kent. See, my Lord, here's the Entrance.

Lear. Well, I'll go in,

And pass it all, I'll pray, and then I'll sleep:
 Poor naked Wretches, wherefoe'er you are,
 That bide the pelting of this pitiless Storm.
 How shall your houseless Heads and unfed Sides
 Sustain this Shock; your Raggedness defend you
 From Seasons such as these.

Q! I have ta'en too little Care of this,

Take

Take Physick, Pomp;
 Expose thy self to feel what Wretches feel;
 That thou may'st cast the Superflux to them,
 And shew the Heavens more just.

Edgar in the Hovel.

Five Fathom and a half, poor *Tom*.

Kent. What art thou that dost grumble there i' th'
 Straw?

Come forth.

Edg. Away; the foul Fiend follows me. — Through
 the sharp Haw-thorn blows the cold Wind. — Mum,
 go to the Bed and warm thee. — Ha! What do I see?
 By all my Grievs the poor old King bare-headed,
 And drench'd in this foul Storm, professing Syrens,
 Are all your Protections come to this?

Lear. Tell me, Fellow, didst thou give all to thy
 Daughters?

Edg. Who gives any Thing to poor *Tom*, whom the
 foul Fiend has led thro' Fire, and thro' Flame, thro' Bush-
 es and Bogs; that has laid Knives under his Pillow, and
 Halts in his Pue; that has made him proud of Heart
 to ride on a Bay-trotting Horse over four inch'd Bridges,
 to course his own Shadow for a Traytor—Bless thy five
 Wits. *Tom's* a cold (*Shivers*.) Bless thee from Whirl-
 winds, Star-blasting, and taking: Do poor *Tom* some
 Charity, whom the foul Fiend vexes—Sa, sa; there I
 could have him now, and there, and there again.

Lear. Have his Daughters brought him to this pass?
 Could'st thou save nothing? Did'st thou give them all?

Kent. He has no Daughters, Sir.

Lear. Death, Traytor, nothing cou'd have subdu'd
 Nature

To such a lowness, but his unkind Daughters

Edg. Pillicock sat upon Pillicock Hill; Hallo, hallo,
 hallo,

Lear. Is it the Fashion that discarded Fathers
 Should have such little Mercy on their Flesh?
 Judicious Punishment; 'twas his Flesh begot

Those

Those Pelican Daughters!

Edg. Take heed of the foul Fiend; Obey thy Parents; keep thy Word justly; Swear not; commit not with Man's sworn Spouse; set not thy sweet Heart on proud Array: *Tom's* a cold.

Lear. What hast thou been?

Edg. A Serving Man proud of Heart, that curl'd my Hair, us'd Perfume and Washes; that served the Lust of my Mistress's Heart, and did the Act of Darkness with her; swore as many Oaths, as I spoke Words; and broke them all in the sweet Face of Heaven: Let not the Paint, nor the Patch, nor the rustling of Silks betray thy poor Heart to Woman; keep thy Foot out of Brothels, thy Hand out of Plackets, thy Pen from Creditors Books, and despise the foul Fiend——Still through the Haw-thorn blows the cold Wind——Sefs, Suum, Mun, Nonny, Dolphin, my Boy!——Hist, the Boy, the Boy! Sefey! soft, let him trot by.

Lear. Death! thou wert better in thy Grave, than thus to answer with thy unconver'd Body, this Extremity of the Sky. And yet consider him well, and Man's no more than this; Thou art indebted to the Worm for no Silk, to the Beast for no Hide, to the Cat for no Perfume.

——Ha! here's two of us are sophisticated; thou art the Thing it self unaccommodated, Man is no more than such a poor bare fork'd Animal as thou art.

Off, off, ye vain Disguises, empty Lendings, I'll be my Original Self, quick, quick; uncase me.

Kent. Defend his Wits good Heaven!

Lear. One Point I had forgot; what's your Name?

Edg. Poor *Tom*, that eats the swimming Frog, the Wall-nut and the Water-nut; that in the Fury of his Heart, when the foul Fiend rages, eats Cow-dung for Sallads, swallows the old Rat, and the Ditch-dog, that drinks the green Mantle of the standing Pool, that's whipt from Tithing to Tithing, that has three Suits to his Back, six Shirts to his Body.

Horse to ride, and Weapon to wear,
But Rats and Mice, and such small Deer,
Have been *Tom's* Food for seven long Year.

Beware,

Beware, my Follower; Peace Smulkin; Peace, thou foul Fiend.

Lear. One Word more, but be sure true Counsel;
Tell me, Is a Madman, a Gentleman, or a Yeoman?

Kent. I fear'd 'twould come to this; his Wits are gone.

Edg. *Fraterretto* calls me, and tells me, *Nero* is an Angler in the Lake of Darknes. Pray, *Innocent*, and beware the foul Fiend.

Lear. Right, ha! ha! was it not pleasant to have a Thousand with red hot Spits come hizzing in upon'em.

Edg. My Tears begin to take his Part so much.
They mar my Counterfeiting. (*Aside*.)

Lear. The little Dogs and all, Tray, Blanch, and Sweet-heart, see they bark at me.

Edg. *Tom* will throw his Head at 'em; Avant ye Curs.

Be thy Mouth, or black or white,
Tooth that Poisons if it bite,
Mastiff, Grey-hound, Mungrel, Grim,
Hound, or Spaniel, Brach, or Hym,
Bob-tail. Hight, or Trundle-tail,
Tom will make'em weep and wail,
For with throwing thus my Head,
Dogs leap the Hatch, and all are fled.

Ud, de, de, de, See, see, see, Come, march to wakes and Fairs, and Market-towns ——— Poor *Tom*, thy Horn is dry.

Lear. You, Sir, I entertain you for one of my Hundred, only I do not like the Fashion of your Garments; you'll say they're *Persian*, but no Matter, let 'em be chang'd.

Enter Gloucester.

Edg. This is the foul *Flibertigibet*; he begins at Curfew, and walks at first Cock; he gives the Web, and the Pin; knits the Elstock; squints the Eye, and makes the Hair-lip; mildews the white Wheat, and hurts the poor Creature of the Earth;

Swainthin.

Swiithin footed Thrice the Col'd,
 He met the Night-mare and her Nine-fold,
 'Twas there he did appoint her;
 He bid her alight, and her troth plight,
 And arroynt the Witch, arroynt her.

Gloſt. What has your Grace no better Company?

Edg. The Prince of Darkneſs is a Gentleman; *Modo* he is call'd and *Mabu*.

Gloſt. Go with me Sir, hard by I have a Tenant. My Duty cannot ſuffer me to obey in all your Daughters hard Commands, who have enjoyn'd me to make ſaſt my Doors, and let this Tyrannous Night take hold upon you. Yet have I ventur'd to come to ſeek you out, and bring you where both Fire and Food is ready.

Kent. Good my Lord, take his Offer.

Lear. Firſt let me talk with this Philoſopher, Say, *Stagyrite*, what is the Cauſe of Thunder?

Gloſt. Beſeech you, Sir, go with me.

Lear. I'll take a Word with this ſame learned *Thiban*. What is your Study

Edg. How to prevent the Fiend, and to kill Vermin.

Lear. Let me aſk you a Word in private.

Kent. His Wits are quite unſettled; Good Sir, let's force him hence.

Gloſt. Can't blame him? His Daughters ſeek his Death; This Bedlam but diſturbſ him the more. Fellow, be gone.

Edg. Child *Rowland* to the dark Tow'r came,
 His Word, was ſtill, Fi, Fo, and Fum,
 I ſmell the Blood of a Britiſh Man.—Oh! Torture!

(Exit.)

Gloſt. Now, I prithee Friend, let's take him in our Arms, and carry him where he ſhall meet both Welcome and Protection. Good Sir, along with us.

Lear. You ſay right; let 'em anatomize *Regan*, for what breeds about her Heart; is there any Cauſe in Nature for theſe hard Hearts?

Kent.

Kent. Beseech your Grace.

Lear. Hift! — make no Noise, make no Noise —
so, so; we'll to Supper.i'th'Morning. *(Exeunt.)*

Enter Cordelia and Arante.

Ar. Dear Madam, rest ye here, our Search is vain,
Look, here's a Shed; beseech ye, enter here.

Cord. Prithce go thy self, seek thy own Ease,
Where the Mind's free, the Body's delicate:
This Tempest but diverts me from the Thought
Of what would hurt me more.

Enter two Ruffians.

1 *Ruff.* We have dogg'd 'em far enough, this Place is
private.
I'll keep 'em Prisoner's here within this Hovel,
Whilst you return and bring Lord *Edmund* hither;
But help me first to House'em.

2. *Ruff.* Nothing but this, dear devil, *(Shows Go'd.)*
Shou'd have drawn me through all this Tempest;
But to our Work.

(They seize Cordelia and Arante, who shriek out.)
Soft, Madam, we are Friends; dispatch, I say.

Cord. Help, Murder, help; Gods! some kind Thun-
derbolt
To strike me dead.

Enter Edgar.

Edg. What Cry was that? ——— Ha! Women
seiz'd by Ruffians?
Is this a Place and Time for Villany;
Avaunt, ye Blood-hounds.

(Drives them with his Quarter-staff.)

Both. The Devil, — the Devil!

Edg. O speak, what are ye that appear to be
O'th'tender Sex, and yet ungarded wander
Through the dread Mazes of this dreadful Nigh,
Where (though at full) the clouded Moon scarce darts
Imperfect Glimmerings? *Cord.*

Cord. First say, what art thou?
Our Guardian Angel, that wer't pleas'd t'assume
That horrid Shape to fright the Ravishers?
We'll kneel to thee.

Edg. O my tumultuous Blood!
By all my trembling Veins, *Cordelia's* Voice!
'Tis she her self!—My Senses sure conform
To my wild Garb, and I am mad indeed. (*Aside.*)

Cord. Whate'er thou art, befriend a wretched Vir-
gin,
And if thou canst, direct our weary search.

Edg. Who relieves poor *Tom*, that sleeps on the
Nettle, with the Hedg-pig for his Pillow.

Whilst Smug ply'd the Bellows

She truckt with her Fellows,

The Freckle fac'd Mab

Was a Blouze, and a Drab,

Yet *Switthin* made *Oberan* jealous—Oh! Torture.

Ar. Alack! Madam a poor wand'ring Lunatick.

Cord. And yet his Language seem'd but now well
temper'd.

Speak, Friend, to one more wretched than thy self,
And if thou hast one Interval of Sense,
Inform us, if thou canst, where we may find
A poor old Man, who through this Heath has stray'd
The tedious Night.—Speak, saw'st thou such a one?

Edg. The King, her Father, whom she's come to
seek; (*Aside.*)

Through all the Terrors of this Night: O Gods!
That such amazing Piety, such Tenderness
Shou'd yet to me be Cruel—

Yes, fair One, such a One was lately here,
And is convey'd by some that came to seek him,
To a neighb'ring Cottage; but distinctly where,
I know not.

Cord. Blessing on 'em,
Let's find him out, *Arante*, for thou seest (*Going off.*)
We are in Heaven's Protection.

Edg. O *Cordelia*!

Cord. Ha!—Thou know'st my Name.

Edg.

Edg. As you did once know *Edgar's*.

Cord. *Edgar!*

Edg. The poor Remains of *Edgar*, what your Scorn
Has left him.

Cord. Do we wake, *Arante?*

Edg. My Father seeks my Life, which I preserv'd
In hopes of some blest Minute to oblige
Distress'd *Cordelia*, and the Gods have giv'n it;
That thought alone prevail'd with me to take
This Frantick Dress, to make the Earth my Bed,
With these bare Limbs all Change of Seasons bide,
Noon's scorching Heat, and Midnight's piercing Cold,
To feed on Offals, and to drink with Herds,
To combat with the Winds, and be the Sport
Of Clowns, or what's more wretched, yet their Pity.

Ar. Was ever Tale so full of Misery!

Edg. But such a Fall as this I grant was due
To my aspiring Love, for 'twas presumptuous,
Though not presumptuously pursu'd;
For well you know I wore my Flames conceal'd,
And silent as the Lamps that burn in Tombs,
'Till you perceiv'd my Grief, with modest Grace
Drew forth the Secret, and then seal'd my Pardon.

Cord. You had your Pardon, nor can you challenge
more.

Edg. What do I challenge more?

Such Vanity agrees not with these Rags;
When in my prosp'rous State, rich *Gloster's* Heir,
You silenc'd my Pretences, and enjoin'd me
To trouble you upon that Theme no more;
Then what Reception must Love's Language find
From these bare Limbs, and Beggars humble Weeds?

Cord. Such as the Voice of Pardon to a Wretch condemn'd;

Such as the Shouts

Of succouring Forces to a Town besieg'd:

Edg. Ah! What new Method now of Cruelty!

Cord. Come to my Arms, thou dearest, best of Men,
And take the kindest Vows that e'er were spoke
By a protesting Maid.

Edg.

Edg. Is't possible?

Cord. By the dear vital Stream that baths my Heart,
These hallowed Rags of thine, and naked Virtue,
These abject Tassels, these fantastick Shreds,
(Ridiculous ev'n to the meanest Clown)
To me are dearer than the richest Pomp
Of purple Monarchs.

Edg. Generous charming Maid,
The Gods alone that made, can rate thy Worth!
This most amazing Excellence shall be
Fame's Triumphs in succeeding Ages, when
Thy bright Example shall adorn the Scene,
And teach the World Perfection.

Cord. Cold and weary,
We'll rest a while, *Arante*, on that Straw,
Then forward to find out the poor old King.
Edg. Look, I have Flint and Steel, the Implements
Of wand'ring Lunaticks; I'll strike a Light,
And make a Fire beneath this Shed, to dry
Thy Storm drench'd Garments, e'er thou lie to rest thee,
Then Fierce and Wakeful as th' *Hesperian* Dragon,
I'll watch beside thee to protect thy Sleep;
Mean while the Stars shall dart their kindest Beams,
And Angels visit my *Cordelia's* Dreams. (*Exeunt.*)

S C E N E, *The Palace.*

Enter Cornwall, Regan, Bastard, *Servants.* Cornwall
with Gloster's Letters.

Duke. I will have my Revenge e'er I depart his House.
Regan, see here, a Plot upon our State,
'Tis *Gloster's* Character, that has betray'd
His double Trust of Subject, and of Host.

Reg. Then double be our Vengeance, this confirms
Th' Intelligence that we now receiv'd,
That he has been this Night to seek the King;
But who, Sir, was the kind Discoverer?

Duke. Our *Eagle*, quick to spy, and fierce to seize;
Our trusty *Edmund*.

Reg.

Reg. 'Twas a noble Service;
O *Cornwal*, take him to thy deepest Trust,
And wear him as a Jewel at thy Heart.

Bast. Think, Sir, how hard a Fortune I sustain,
That makes me thus repent of serving you; (*Weeps.*)
O that this Treason had not been, or I
Not the Discoverer.

Duke. Edmund, thou shalt find
A Father in our Love, and from this Minute
We call thee Earl of *Gloster*; but there yet
Remains another Justice to be done,
And that's to punish this discarded Traitor;
But lest thy tender Nature should relent
At his just Sufferings, nor brook the Sight,
We wish thee to withdraw.

Reg. The *Grotto*, Sir, within the lower Grove
(*To Edmund Aside.*)
Has Privacy to suit a Mourners Thought.

Bast. And there I may expect a Comforter,
Ha, Madam?

Reg. What may happen, Sir, I know not,
But 'twas a Friend's Advice. (*Ex. Bastard.*)

Duke. Bring in the Traitor.

Gloster brought in.

Bind fast his Arms.

Gloft. What mean your Graces?
You are my Guests, pray do me no foul Play.

Duke. Bind him, I say, hard, harder yet.

Reg. Now Traitor, thou shalt find——

Duke. Speak, Rebel, where hast thou sent the King?
Whom spight of our Decree thou saw'st last Night.

Gloft. I'm ty'd to th' Stake, and must stand the Course.

Reg. Say where, and why thou hast conceal'd him?

Gloft. Because I wou'd not see thy cruel Hands
Tear out his poor old Eyes, nor thy fierce Sister
Carve his anointed Flesh; but I shall see
The swift wing'd Vengeance overtake such Children.

Duke. See't thou shalt never; Slaves perform your
Work.

Out

Out with those treacherous Eyes; dispatch, I say,
If thou see'st Vengeance.—

Gloſt. He that will think to live till he be old,
Give me ſome help.—O cruel! oh! ye Gods.

(They put out his Eyes.)

Serv. Hold, hold, my Lord, I bar your Cruelty,
I cannot love your Safety, and give way
To ſuch a barbarous Practice.

Duke. Ha! my Villain.

Serv. I have been your Servant from my Infancy,
But better Service have I never done you
Than with this Boldneſs.—

Duke. Take thy Death, Slave.

Serv. Nay then Revenge whiſt yet my Blood is warm.

(Fight.)

Reg. Help here——Are not you hurt my Lord?

Gloſt. *Edmund*, enkindle all the ſparks of Nature
To quit this horrid Act.

Reg. Out treacherous Villain,
Thou call'ſt on him that hates thee, it was he
That broach'd thy Treason, ſhew'd us thy Diſpatches;
There,—read, and ſave the *Cambrian* Prince a Labour:
If thy Eyes fail thee, call for Spectacles.

Gloſt. O my Folly!

Then *Edgar* was abus'd, kind Gods, forgive me that.

Reg. How is't, my Lord?

Duke. Turn out that Eye-leſs Villain, let him ſmell
His Way to *Cambray*, throw this Slave upon a Dunghil.

Regan, I bleed apace, give me your Arm.

(Lx.)

Gloſt. All dark, and comfortleſs!

Where are thoſe various Objects that but now
Employ'd my buſie Eyes? where thoſe Eyes?

Dead are their piercing Rays that lately ſhot

O'er flowry Vales to diſtant funny Hills,

And drew with Joy the vaſt Horizon in.

Theſe groping Hands are now my only Guides,
And feeling all my Sight.

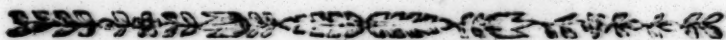
O Miſery! what Words can ſound my Grief?

Shut from the Living whiſt amongſt the Living;

Dark as the Grave amidſt the buſtling World.

At

At once from Business, and from Pleasure barr'd:
 No more to view the Beauty of the Spring,
 Nor see the Face of Kindred, or of Friend;
 Yet still one Way th' extreamest Fate affords,
 And even the Blind can find the Way to Death.
 Must I then tamely dye, and unreveng'd?
 So *Lear* may fall: No, with these bleeding Rings
 I will present me to the pitying Crowd,
 And with the Rhetorick of these dropping Veins
 Enflame 'em to revenge their King and me;
 Then when the glorious Mischief is on Wing,
 This Lumber from some Precipice I'll throw,
 And dash it on the ragged Flint below;
 Whence my freed Soul to her bright Sphere shall fly,
 Through boundless Orbs eternal Regions spy,
 And like the Sun, be all one glorious Eye. (Ex. }



A C T IV.

S C E N E, *A Grotto.*

Edmund and Regan amorously seated, listening to Musick.

Bast. **W**H Y were those Beauties made another's
 Right,
 Which none can prize like me; charming Queen,
 Take my blooming Youth, for ever fold me
 In those soft Arms, Lull me in endless Sleep,
 That I may dream of Pleasures too transporting
 For Life to bear.

Reg. Live. live my *Glosser*,
 And feel no Death but that of swooning Joy;
 I yield the Bliss on no harder Terms
 Than that thou continue to be happy.

Bast. This Jealousie is yet more kind, is't possible
 That I should wander from a Paradise

'To feed on sickly Weeds? such Sweets live here
 That Constancy will be no Virtue in me:
 And yet must I forthwith go meet her Sister, (*Aside.*
 To whom, I must protest as much ———
 Suppose it be the same; why, best of all,
 And I have then my Lesson already conn'd.

Reg. Wear this Remembrance of me.—I dare now
 (*Gives him a Ring.*

Absent my self no longer from the Duke,
 Whose Wound grows dangerous, I hope mortal.

Bas. And let this happy Image of your *Gloster*,
 (*Pulling out a Picture, drops a Note.*

Lodge in that Breast, where all his Treasure lies. (*Exit.*

Reg. To this brave youth a Woman's blooming Beau-
 ties

Are due; my Fool usurps my Bed—What's here?

Confusion on my Eyes. (*Reads.*

*Where merit is Transparent, not to behold it were Blind-
 ness; and not to reward it, Ingratitude.*

Goneril.

Vexatious Accident! yet fortunate too,

My Jealousie's confirm'd, and I am taught

To cast for my Defence ——— (*Enter an Officer.*

Now, what mean those Shouts? and that thy hasty En-
 trance?

Off. A most surprizing and a sudden Change;

The Peasants are all up in Mutiny,

And only want a Chief to lead 'em on,

To storm your Palace.

Reg. On what Provocation?

Off. At last Day's publick Festival, to which

The Yeomen from all Quarters had repair'd,

Old *Gloster*, whom you late depriv'd of Sight,

(His Veins yet streaming fresh, presents himself,

Proclaims your Cruelty, and their Oppression,

With the King's Injuries; which so enrag'd 'em,

That now that Mutiny which long had crept,

Takes Wing, and threatens your best Pow'rs.

Reg. White-liver'd Slave!

Our Forces rais'd, and led by Valiant *Edmund*,

C

Shall

Shall drive this Monster of Rebellion back
To her dark Cell ; young *Gloster's* Arm allays
The Storm, his Father's feeble Breath did raise. (*Exit.*)

The Field S C E N E.

Enter Edgar.

Edg. The lowest and most abject Thing of Fortune
Stands still in Hope, and is secure from Fear ;
The lamentable Change is from the Best,
The worst returns to better.— Who comes here ?

Enter Gloster, led by an old Man.

My Father poorly led ! depriv'd of Sight !
The precious Stones torn from their bleeding Rings ?
Something I heard of this inhumane Deed,
But disbeliev'd it as an Act too horrid
For the hot Hell of a curs'd Woman's Fury ;
When will the Measure of my Woes be full ?

Gloft. Revenge, thou art on Foot, Success attend thee.
Well have I sold my Eyes, if the Event
Prove happy for the injur'd King.

Old M. O my good Lord, I have been your Tenant,
And your Father's Tenant these Fourscore Years.

Gloft. Away, get thee away, good Friend be gone,
Thy Comforts can do me no good at all,
Thee they may hurt.

Old M. You cannot see your Way.

Gloft. I have no Way, and therefore want not Eyes,
I stumbled when I saw : O dear Son *Edgar*,
The Food of thy abused Father's Wrath,
Might I but live to see thee in my Touch,
I'd say, I had Eyes again.

Edg. Alas, he's sensible that I was wrong'd,
And thou'd I own myself, his tender Heart
Would break betwixt th' Extreame of Grief and Joy.

Old M. How now, who's there ?

Edg. A Charity for poor *Tom*, Play fair, defy the foul
Fiend.

O Gods ! and must I still pursue this Trade, [*Aside.*]
Trifling beneath such loads of Misery ?

Old M.

Old M. 'Tis poor mad *Tom*.

Gloſt. In the late Storm, I ſuch a Fellow ſaw,
Which made me think a Man a Worm.
Where is the Lunatick?

Old M. Here, my Lord.

Gloſt. Get thee now away; if for my ſake
Thou wilt o'er-take us hence a Mile or Two.
I' th' Way toward *Dover*, do't for antient Love,
And bring ſome cov'ring for this naked Wretch,
Whom I'll intreat to lead me.

Old M. Alack, my Lord, he's mad.

Gloſt. 'Tis the Time's Plague when Mad-men lead the
Blind,
Do as I bid thee.

Old M. I'll bring him the beſt 'parrel that I have,
Come on't what will. (*Exit.*)

Gloſt. Sirrah, naked Fellow.

Edg. Poor *Tom*'s cold;—I cannot fool it longer,
And yet I muſt.—Bleſs thy ſweet Eyes, they bleed;
Believe't poor *Tom* ev'n weeps his blind to ſee 'em.

Gloſt. Know'ſt thou the Way to *Dover*?

Edg. Both Stile and Gate, Horſe-way and Foot-path;
poor *Tom* has been ſcar'd out of his good Wits; bleſs every
true Man's Son from the foul Fiend.

Gloſt. Here, take this Purſe; that I am wretched,
Makes thee happier, Heav'n deal ſo ſtill.
Thus let the griping Uſurer's Hord be ſcatter'd,
So diſtribution ſhall undo Exceſs,
And each Man have enough. Doſt thou know *Dover*?

Edg. Ay, Maſter.

Gloſt. There's a Cliff, whoſe high and bending Head
Looks dreadfully down on the roaring Deep;
Bring me but to the very Brink of it,
And I'll repair the Poverty thou bear'ſt
With ſomething Rich about me, from that Place
I ſhall no leading need.

Edg. Give me thy Arm: poor *Tom* ſhall guide thee.

Gloſt. Soft, for I hear the Tread of Paſſengers.

Enter Kent and Cordelia.

Cord. Ah me ! your Fear's too true, it was the King;
I spoke but now with some that met him
As mad as the vext Sea, singing aloud,
Crown'd with rank Femiter, and Furrow Weeds,
With Berries, Burdocks, Violets, Dazies, Poppies,
And all the idle Flowers that grow
In our sustaining Corn ; conduct me to him,
And Heav'n so prosper thee.

Kent. I will, good Lady;
Ha, *Gloster* here !—Turn, poor dark Man, and hear
A Friend's Condolement, who at sight of thine
Forgets his own Distress, thy old true *Kent*.

Gloft. How, *Kent* ? from whence return'd ?

Kent. I have not since my Banishment been absent,
But in Disguise follow'd th' abandon'd King :
'Twas me thou saw'st with him in the late Storm.

Gloft. Let me embrace thee, had I Eyes, I now
Should weep for Joy ; but let this trickling Blood
Suffice instead of Tears.

Cord. O Misery !
To whom shall I complain, or in what Language ?
Forgive, O wretched Man, the Piety
That brought thee to this pass ; 'twas I that caus'd it ;
I cast me at thy Feet and beg of thee
To crush these weeping Eyes to equal Darkness,
If that will give thee any Recompence.

Edg. Was ever Season so distress'd as this ? *(Aside.*

Gloft. I think *Cordelia's* Voice ! rise, pious Princess,
And take a dark Man's Blessing.

Cord. O my *Edgar* !
My Virtue's now grown guilty, works the Bane
Of those that do befriend me, Heav'n forsakes me,
And when you look that Way, it is but just
That you shou'd hate me too.

Edg. O wave this cutting Speech, and spare to wound
A heart that's on the Rack.

Gloft. No longer cloud thee, *Kent*, in that disguise,
There's

There's Business for thee, and of noblest weight;
 Our injur'd Country is at length in Arms,
 Urg'd by the King's inhuman Wrongs and mine,
 And only want a Chief to lead 'em on.
 That Task be thine.

Edg. Brave *Britains*; then there's Life in't yet. (*Aside.*

Kent. Then have we one Cast for our Fortune yet.
 Come, Princess, I'll bestow you with the King,
 Then on the Spur to head these Forces:
 Farewel, good *Gloster*, to our conduct trust.

Gloft. And be your Cause as Prosperous as 'tis Just.

(*Exeunt.*

S C E N E, *Goneril's Palace.*

Enter Goneril, Attendants.

Gon. It was great Ignorance, *Gloster's* Eyes being out,
 To let him live; where he arrives, he moves
 All hearts against us; *Edmund* I think is gone,
 In pity to his Misery, to dispatch him.

Gent. No, Madam, he's return'd on speedy Summons
 Back to your Sister.

Gon. Ha! I like not that,
 Such Speed must have the Wings of Love; where's
Albany?

Gent. Madam, within, but never Man so chang'd;
 I told him of the Uproar of the Peasants,
 He smil'd at it; when I inform'd him
 Of *Gloster's* Treason ———

Gon. Trouble him no farther,
 It is his coward Spirit; back to our Sister,
 Hasten her Musters, and let her know
 I have giv'n the Distaff into my Husband's Hands.
 That done, with special Care deliver these Dispatches
 In private to young *Gloster*.

Enter a Messenger.

Mess. O Madam, most unseasonable News,
The Duke of *Cornwall*'s dead of his late Wound,
Whose Loss your Sister has in part supply'd,
Making brave *Edmund* General of her Forces.

Gen. One Way I like this well;
But being Widow, and my *Gloster* with her,
May blast the promis'd Harvest of our Love.
A Word more, Sir, — add Speed to your Journey,
And if you chance to meet with that blind Traitor,
Preferment falls on him that cuts him off. (Ex.)

The Field S C E N E.*Enter Gloster and Edgar.*

Glost. When shall we come to th' Top of that same Hill?

Edg. We climb it now, mark how we labour.

Glost. Methinks the Ground is even.

Edg. Horrible Steep! hark, do you hear the Sea?

Glost. No truly.

Edg. Why then your other Senses grow imperfect
By your Eyes Anguish.

Glost. So may it be indeed.

Methinks thy voice is alter'd, and thou speak'st
In better Phrase and Matter than thou did'st.

Edg. You are much deceiv'd, in nothing I am alter'd,
But in my Garments.

Glost. Methinks y' are better spoken.

Edg. Come on, Sir, here's the Place, how fearful
And dizzy 'tis to cast one's Eyes so low.
The Crows and Coughs that Wing the mid-way Air,
Shew scarce so big as Beetles, half Way down
Hangs one that gathers Samphire, dreadful Trade!
The Fishermen, that walk upon the Beach,
Appear like Mice, and yon tall anch'ring Barque
Seems lessen'd to her Cock, her Cock a Buoy
Almost too small for Sight; the murmuring Surge
Cannot be heard so high, I'll look no more,

Left

Left my Brain turn, and the Disorder make me
Tumble down head-long.

Gloſt. Set me where you ſtand.

Edg. You are now within a Foot of the extream Verge,
For all beneath the Moon I wou'd not now
Leap forward.

Gloſt. Let go my Hand,
Here, Friend, is another Purſe, in it a Jewel
Well worth a poor Man's taking; get thee farther,
Bid me farewel, and let me hear thee going.

Edg. Fare you well, Sir, — That I do triſtle thus
With this his Deſpair, is with Deſign to cure it.

Gloſt. Thus, mighty Gods, this World I do renounce,
And in your Sight ſhake my Afflictions off;
If I cou'd bear 'em longer, and not fall
To quarrel with your great oppoſeleſs Wills,
My Snuff and feebler Part of Nature ſhou'd
Burn it ſelf out; if *Edgar* live, O bleſs him.
Now, Fellow, fare thee well.

Edg. Gone, Sir, farewel.
And yet I know not how Conceit may rob
The Treafury of Life, had he been where he thought.
By this had Thought been paſt. — Alive, or Dead?
Hoa, Sir, Friend; here you, Sir, ſpeak. —
Thus might he paſs indeed, — yet he revives.
What are you, Sir?

Gloſt. Away, and let me dye.

Edg. Hadſt thou been ought but Goſmore Feathers,
Air,
Falling ſo many Fathom down,
Thou hadſt ſhiver'd like an Egg; but thou doſt breath,
Haſt heavy Subſtance, bleed'ſt? Not ſpeak! Art ſound?
Thy Life's a Miracle.

Gloſt. But have I fall'n, or no?

Edg. From the dread Summit of this chalky Bourn;
Look up, an Height, the Shrill-tun'd Lark ſo high
Cannot be ſeen, or heard; do but look up.

Gloſt. Alack, I have no Eyes.

Is Wretchedness depriv'd that Benefit,
To end itself by Death?

Edg. Give me your Arm.

Up; so, how is't? Feel you your Legs? You stand.

Gloft. Too well, too well.

Edg. Upon the brow o'th' Cliff, what Thing was that
Which parted from you?

Gloft. A poor unfortunate Beggar.

Edg. As I stood here below, methought his Eyes
Were two full Moons, wide Nostrils breathing Fire;
It was some Fiend, therefore thou happy Father,
Think that th' all powerful Gods, who make them
Honours

Of Mens Impossibilities, have preserv'd thee.

Gloft. 'Tis wonderful; henceforth I'll bear Affliction.
'Till it expire; the Goblin which you speak of,
I took for a Man: oft-times 'twould say,
The Fiend, the Fiend: He led me to that Place.

Edg. Bear free and patient Thoughts: but who comes
here?

*Enter Lear, a Coronet of Flowers on his Head; Wreaths,
and Garlands about him.*

Lear. No, no; they cannot touch me for Coining;
I am the King himself.

Edg. O piercing Sight!

Lear. Nature's above Art in that Respect: There's
your Press-money: That Fellow handles his Bow like a
Cow-keeper: ——— Draw me a Clothier's Yard. A
Mouse, a Mouse, peace, ho! There's my Gauntlet;
I'll prove it on a Giant: Bring up the brown Bills: O
well flown Bird; i'th' White, i'th' White. — — Heugh!
give the Word.

Edg. Sweet *Marjorum*.

Lear. Pats.

Gloft. I know that Voice.

Lear. Ha! *Gones i'* with a white Beard! they flatter'd
me like a Dog, and told me I had white Hairs on my
Chin, before the black ones were there: To say ay and
no,

no to every thing that I said : Ay, and no too was no good Divinity. When the Rain came once to wet me, and the winds to make me chatter, when the Thunder wou'd not peace at my Bidding. There I found 'em, there I smelt 'em out ; go too ; they are not Men of their Words ; they told me I was a King ; 'tis a Lye, I am not Ague Proof.

Gloft. That Voice I well remember, it's not the King's ?

Lear. Ay, every inch a King, when I do stare, See how the Subject quakes.

I pardon that Man's Life ; what was the Cause ? Adultery ? Thou shalt not die. Die for Adultery ! The Wren goes to't, and the small gilded Fly Engenders in my Sight ; let Copulation thrive ; For *Gloster's* Bastard Son was kinder to his Father Than were my Daughters got i'th' lawful Bed. To't Luxury, Pell-mell, for I lack Soldiers.

Gloft. Not all my Sorrows past so deep have touch'd me, As these sad Accents : Sight were now a Torment.—

Lear. Behold that simpering Lady, she that starts At Pleasure's Name, and thinks her Ear profan'd With the least wanton Word : wou'd you believe it, The Fitcher, nor the pamper'd Steed goes to't With such a riotous Appetite : Down from the Waste they are Centaurs, though Women all above ; but to the Girdle do the Gods inherit, beneath is all the Fiends : There's Hell, there's Darkness, the sulphurous unfathom'd—Fie ! fie ! pah !—an Ounce of Civet, good Apothecary, to sweeten my Imagination.—There's Money for thee.

Gloft. Let me kiss that Hand.

Lear. Let me wipe it first ; it smells of Mortality.

Gloft. Speak, Sir, do you know me ?

Lear. I remember thy Eyes well enough : Nay do thy worst, blind *Cupid*. I'll not love—Read me this Challenge, mark but the Penning of it.

Gloft. Were all the Letters Suns, I could not see.

Edg. I wou'd not take this from Report ; wretched *Cordelia*,

What will thy Virtue do when thou shalt find:
This fresh affliction added to the Tale
Of thy unparallel'd Grievs?

Lear. Read.

Gloſt. What! with this Case of Eyes?

Lear. O ho! Are you there with me? No Eyes in your Head, and no Money in your Purſe? Yet you ſee how this World goes.

Gloſt. I ſee it feelingly.

Lear. What! Art Mad? A Man may ſee how this World goes with no Eyes. Look with thy Ears; ſee how you Juſtice rails on that ſimple Thief; ſhake 'em together, and the firſt that drops, be it Thief or Juſtice, is a Villain.—— Thou haſt ſeen a Farmer's Dog bark at a Beggar.

Gloſt. Ay, Sir.

Lear. And the Man ran from the Cur; there thou might'ſt behold the great Image of Authority; a Dog's obey'd in Office. Thou Rascal, Beadle, hold up thy bloody Hand, why doſt thou laſh that Strumpet? Thou hotly luſt 'ſt to enjoy her in that kind for which thou whips her; do, do, the Judge that ſentenc'd her has been before-hand with thee.

Gloſt. How ſtiff is my vile Senſe, that yields not yet!

Lear. I tell thee the Uſurer hangs the Couz'ner; through tatter'd Robes ſmall Vices do appear; Robes, and Furr-gowns hide all: Place Sins with Gold; why there 'tis for thee, my Friend, make much of it; it has the Pow'r to ſeal the Accuſer's Lips. Get thee glaſs Eyes, and like a ſcurvy Politician, ſeem to ſee the Things thou doſt not. Pull, pull off my Boots; hard, harder; ſo, ſo.

Gloſt. O Matter and Impertinency mixt!
Reason in Madneſs.

Lear. If thou wilt weep my Fortunes, take my Eyes, I know thee well enough, thy Name is *Gloſter*.

Thou muſt be patient, we come crying hither:

Thou know'ſt, the firſt Time that we taſte the Air

We

We wail and cry—I'll preach to thee, mark.

Edg. Break lab'ring Heart.

Lear. When we are born, we cry that we are come
To this great Stage of Fools.—

Enter two or three Gentlemen.

Gent. O! here he is; lay hand upon him, Sir:
Your dearest Daughter sends ———

Lear. No Rescue? What! a Prisoner? I am even the
natural Fool of Fortune: Use me well, you shall have
Ransom—Let me have Surgeons? O! I am cut to th'
Brains.

Gent. You shall have any Thing.

Lear. No Seconds? All my self? I will die bravely
like a smug Bridegroom, flush'd and pamper'd as a Priest's
Whore, I am a King, my Masters, know ye that?

Gent. You are a Royal one, and we obey you.

Lear. It were an excellent Stratagem to shoe a Troop
of Horse with Felt, I'll put in proof—No noise, no
Noise.—Now will we steal upon these Sons-in-Law,
and then — Kill, kill, kill, kill! *(Ex. Running.)*

Gloſt. A Sight most moving in the meanest Wretch.
Past speaking in a King. Now, good Sir, what are you?

Edg. A most poor Man, made tame to Fortune's
Strokes,
And prone to pity by experienc'd Sorrows; give me your
Hand.

Gloſt. Ye ever gentle Gods, take my Breath from me,
And let not my ill Genius tempt me more
To die before you please.

Enter Goneril's Gentleman-Usher.

Gent. A proclaim'd Prize, O most happily met,
That Eye-less Head of thine was first fram'd Flesh
To raise my Fortunes; Thou old unhappy Traitor,
The Sword is out that must destroy thee.

Gloſt.

Gloſt. Now let thy friendly Hand put Strength enough to't.

Gent. Wherefore, bold Peaſant,
Dar'ſt thou ſupport a publiſh'd Traitor? Hence,
Leſt I deſtroy thee too. Let go his Arm.

Edg. Chill not let go, Zir, without 'verther 'caſion.

Gent. Let go Slave, or thou dieſt.

Edg. Good Gentlemen go your Gate, and let poor Volk paſs; and Chu'd ha' bin' Zwagger'd out of my Life, it wou'd not a bin zo-long as 'tis by a Vortnight.— Nay, an' thou com'ſt near the old Man, I'ſt try whether your Coſtard or my Ballow be th' harder.

Gent. Out Dunhil.

Edg. 'Chill pick your Teeth, Zir; come no matter Voines.

Gent. Slave, thou haſt Slain me; Oh untimely Death!

Edg. I know thee well, a ſerviceable Villain,
As duteous to the Vices of thy Miſtreſs,
As Luſt cou'd wiſh.

Gloſt. What! is he dead?

Edg. Sit you, Sir, and reſt you.

This is a Letter-Carrier, and may have
Some Papers of Intelligence, that may ſtand
Our Party in good Stead to know.—What's here?

(Takes a Letter out of his Pocket, opens, and reads.)

To Edmund Earl of Gloſter.

Let our mutual Loves be remembred, you have many Opportunities to cut him off. If he return the Conqueror, then I am ſtill a Priſoner, and his Bed my Goal; from the loath'd Warmth of which deliver me, and ſupply the Place for your Labour.

Goneril.

A Plot upon her Huſband's Life,
And the Exchange my Brother!—Here i'th' Sands
I'll rake thee up, thou Meſſenger of Luſt,
Griev'd only that thou had'ſt no other Death's-man;
In Time and Place convenient, I'll produce

Theſe

These Letters to the Sight of th' injur'd Duke,
 As best shall serve our Purpose: Come, your Hand.
 Far off methinks I hear the beaten Drum.
 Come, Sir, I will bestow you with a Friend. (*Exeunt.*)

S C E N E, A Chamber.

Lear asleep on a Couch; Cordelia, and Attendants standing by him.

Cord. His Sleep is sound, and may have good Effect:
 To cure his jarring Senses, and repair
 This Breach of Nature.

Phys. We have employ'd the utmost Pow'r of Art,
 And this deep Rest will perfect our Design.

Cord. O *Regan, Goneril!* Inhuman Sisters,
 Had he not been your Father, these white Hairs
 Had challeng'd sure some Pity? Was this a Face
 To be expos'd against the jarring Winds?
 My Enemy's Dog, though he had bit me, shou'd
 Have stood that Night against my Fire—he wakes,
 speak to him.

Gent. Madam, do you, 'tis fittest.

Cord. How do's my Royal Lord? How fares your
 Majesty?

Lear. You do me Wrong to take me out o'th' Grave.
 Ha! Is this too a World of Cruelty?
 I know my Privilege, think not that I will
 Be us'd like a wretched Mortal? no,
 No more of that.

Cord. Speak to me, Sir, who am I?

Lear. You are a Soul in Bliss, but I am bound
 Upon a Wheel of Fire, which my own Tears
 Do scald like molten Lead.

Cord. Sir, do you know me?

Lear. You are a Spirit, I know; where did you die?

Cord. Still, still, far wide.

Phys.

Phys. Madam, he's scarce awake; he'll soon grow more compos'd.

Lear. Where have I been? Where am I? Fair Day-Light!

I am mightily abus'd, I should even die with Pity
To see another thus. I will not swear
These are my Hands.

Cord. O look upon me, Sir,
And hold your Hands in Blessing o'er me; nay,
You must not kneel.

Lear. Pray do not mock me:
I am a very foolish fond old Man,
Fourscore and upward; and to deal plainly with you,
I fear I am not in my perfect Mind.

Cord. Nay, then farewell to Patience: Witness for me
Ye mighty Pow'rs, I ne'er complain'd till now!

Lear. Methinks I shou'd know you and know this
Man,
Yet I am doubtful, for I am mainly ignorant
What Place this is, and all the Skill I have
Remember not these Garments; nor do I know
Where I did sleep last Night.— Pray do not mock me—
For, as I am a Man, I think that Lady
To be my Child *Cordelia*.

Cord. O my dear, dear Father!

Lear. Be your Tears wet? Yes faith; pray do not weep,
I know I have giv'n thee Cause, and am so humbled
With Crosses since, that I cou'd ask
Forgiveness of thee, were it possible
That thou cou'd grant it; but I'm well assur'd
Thou can'st not; therefore I do stand thy Justice;
If thou hast Poison for me I will drink it,
Bless thee and die.

Cord. O pity, Sir, a bleeding Heart, and cease
This killing Language.

Lear. Tell me, Friends, where am I?

Gent. In your own Kingdom, Sir.

Lear. Do not abuse me.

Gent. Be comforted, good Madam, for the Violence



Of his Distemper's past; we'll lead him in,
Nor trouble him, till he is better settled.

Will't please you, Sir, walk into freer Air?

Lea. You must bear with me, I am old and foolish.

(They lead him off.)

Card. The Gods restore you—Hark, I hear afar
The beaten Drum, old *Kent's* a Man of's Word.

O for an Arm

Like the fierce Thunderers, when the Earth-born Sons
Storm'd Heav'n, to fight this injur'd Father's Battle!

That I cou'd shift my Sex, and die me deep

In his Opposer's Blood! But as I may,

With Women's Weapons, Piety and Pray'rs,

I'll aid his Cause — You never erring Gods

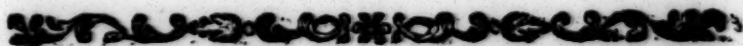
Fight on his Side, and Thunder on his Foes

Such Tempests as his poor ag'd Head sustain'd;

Your Image suffers when a Monarch bleeds.

'Tis your own Cause, for that your Succours bring.

Revenge your selves, and Right an injur'd King.



ACT. V.

SCENE a Camp.

Enter Goneril and Attendants.

Gon. OUR Sisters Pow'rs already are arriv'd,

And she her self has promis'd to prevent

The Night with her Approach: Have you provided

The Banquet I bespoke for her Reception.

At my Tent?

Alar.

Att. So, please your Grace, we have.

Gon. But thou, my Prisoner, must prepare the Bowl!
That Crowns this Banquet, when our Mirth is high,
The Trumpets sounding and the Flutes replying,
Then is the Time to give this fatal Draught
To this imperious Sister; if then our Arms succeed;
Edmond, more dear than Victory, is mine.
But if Defeat or Death it self attend me,
'Twill charm my Ghost to think I've left behind me;
No happy Rival, Hark, she comes. *(Trumpet.)*
(Exeunt.)

Enter Bastard *in his Tent.*

Bast. To both these Sisters have I sworn my Love;
Each jealous of the other, as the Stung
Are of the Adder; neither can be held
If both remain alive; where shall I fix?
Cornwall is dead, and *Regan's* empty Bed
Seems cast by Fortune for me; but already
I have enjoy'd her, and bright *Goneril*
With equal Charms brings dear Variety,
And yet untasted Beauty: I will use
Her Husband's Countenance for the Battle, then
Usurp at once his Bed and Throne, *(Enter Officers.)*
My trusty Scouts y'are well return'd; have ye descry'd
The Strength and Posture of the Enemy?

Off. We have, and were surpriz'd to find
The banish'd *Kent* return'd and at their Head;
Your Brother *Edgar* on the Rear; old *Gloster*
(A moving Spectacle) led through their Ranks,
Whose powerful Tongue, and more prevailing Wrongs,
Have so enrag'd, their rustick Spirits, that with
Th' approaching Dawn we must expect their Battle.

Bast. You bring a welcome Hearing: Each to his
Charge.
Line well your Ranks, and stand on your Award;
To-night repose you, and i'th' Morn we'll give
The Sun a Sight that shall be worth his Rising.

SCENE

SCENE, *A Valley near the Camp.**Enter Edgar and Gloster.*

Edg. Here, Sir, take you the Shadow of this Tree
For your good Host ; pray that the right may thrive :
If ever I return to you again
I'll bring you Comfort. (*Exit:*

Gloft. Thanks, friendly Sir ;
The Fortune your good Cause deserves betide you.
An Alarm, after which Gloster speaks.
The Fight grows hot ; the whole War's now at Work,
And the goar'd Battle bleeds in every Vein,
Whilst Drums and Trumpets drown loud Slaughter's
Roar :

Where's *Gloster* now that us'd to head the Fray,
And scour the Ranks where deadliest Danger lay ?
Here like a Shepherd in a lonely Shade,
Idle, unarm'd, and listening to the Fight ;
Yet the disabled Courser, maim'd and blind,
When to the Stall he hears the ratling War,
Foaming with rage, tears up the batter'd Ground ;
And tugs for Liberty.

No more of Shelter, thou blind Worm, but forth
To th' open Field ; the War may come this Way
And crush thee into Rest—Here lie thee down,
And tear the Earth, that Work befits a Mole.
O dark Despair ! When *Edgar*, wilt thou come
To pardon, and dismiss me to the Grave ?

(*A Retreat sounded.*

Hark ! a Retreat, the King has lost or won.

Re-enter Edgar, Bloody.

Edg. Away, old Man, give me your Hand, away !
King Lear has lost ; he and his Daughter ta'en,
And this, ye Gods, is all that I can save
Of this most precious Wreck ; give me your Hand.

Gloft. No farther, Sir, a Man may rot even here.

Edg. What ! In ill Thoughts again ? Men must endure
Their

Their going hence, ev'n as their coming hither.

Gloß. And that's true too.

(Exeunt.)

Flourish. Enter in Conquest, Albany, Goneril, Regan, Bastard. Lear, Kent, Cordelia, Prisoners.

Alb. It is enough to have conquer'd, Cruelty
Shou'd ne'er survive the Fight. Captain o'th' Guards,
Treat well your Royal Prisoners, 'till you have
Our farther Orders, as you hold our Pleasure.

Gon. Hark, Sir, not as you hold our Husband's Pleasure,
(To the Captain aside.)

But as you hold your Life, dispatch your Prisoners.
Our Empire can have no sure Settlement
But in their Death, the Earth, that covers them,
Binds fast our Throne. Let me hear the're dead.

Capt. I shall obey your Orders.

(Exit.)

Bast. Sir, I approve it safest to pronounce
Sentence of Death upon this wretched King,
Whose Age has charms in it, his Title more,
To draw the Commons once more to his Side.
'Twere best prevent——

Alb. Sir, by your Favour,
I hold you but a Subject of this War,
Not as a Brother.

Reg. That's as we list to grace him.
Have you forgot that he did lead our Pow'rs;
Bore the Commission of our Place and Person?
And that Authority may well stand up,
And call it self your Brother.

Gon. Not so hot,
In his own Merits he exalts himself
More than in your Addition.

Enter Edgar disguis'd.

Alb. Whart art thou?

Edg. Pardon me, Sir, that I presume to stop
A Prince and Conqueror, yet ere you Triumph,
Give Ear to what a Stranger can deliver
Of what Concerns you more than Triumph can:
I do impeach your General there of Treason,

Lord!

Lord *Edmund*, that usurps the Name of *Gloster*,
 Of foulest Practice 'gainst your Life and Honour ;
 This Charge is true, and wretched though I seem,
 I can produce a Champion, that will prove
 In single Combat what I do avouch,
 If *Edmund* dares but trust his Cause and Sword.

Bast. What will not *Edmund* dare ? my Lord, I beg
 The Favour that you'd instantly appoint
 The Place where I may meet this Challenger,
 Whom I will sacrifice to my wrong'd Fame ;
 Remember, Sir, that injur'd Honour's nice
 And cannot brook Delay.

Alb. Anon, before our Tent, i'th' Army's View,
 There let the Herald cry.

Edg. I thank your Highness in my Champion's Name,
 He'll wait your Trumpet's Call.

Alb. Lead.

(*Exeunt.*)

Manent Lear, Kent, Cordelia, guarded.

Lear. O *Kent*, *Cordelia* !

You are the only Pair that I e'er wrong'd,
 And the just Gods have made you Witnesses
 Of my Disgrace, the very shame of Fortune,
 To see me chain'd and shackled at these Years !
 Yet were you but Spectators of my Woes,
 Not Fellow-sufferers, all were well !

Cord. This Language, Sir, adds yet to our Affliction.

Lear. Thou, *Kent*, did'st head the Troops that fought
 my Battle,

Expos'd thy Life and Fortunes for a Master
 That had (as I remember) banish'd thee.

Kent. Pardon me, Sir, that once I broke your Orders ;
 Banish'd by you, I kept me here disguis'd
 To watch your Fortunes, and protect your Person ;
 You know you entertain'd a rough blunt Fellow,
 One *Cajus*, and you thought he did you Service.

Lear. My trusty *Cajus*, I have lost him too !
 'Twas a rough Honesty.

(*Weeps.*
Kent.)

Kent. I was that *Cajus*,
Disguis'd in that course Drefs, to follow you.

Lear. My *Cajus* too! wer't thou my trusty *Cajus*?
Enough, enough ———

Cord. Ah me, he faints! his Blood forsakes his Cheek;
Help, *Kent.* ———

Lear. No, no, they shall not see us weep,
We'll see them rot first—Guards, lead away to Prison;
Come, *Kent*, *Cordelia*, come;
We two will sit alone, like Birds i'th' Cage,
When thou dost ask me Blessing, I'll kneel down
And ask of thee Forgiveness; thus we'll live,
And pray, and sing, and tell old Tales, and laugh
At gilded Butter-flies, hear Sycophants
Talk of Court-news, and we'll talk with them too,
Who loses, and who wins, who's in, and who's out,
And take upon us the Mystry of Things,
As if we were Heav'n's Spies.

Cord. Upon such Sacrifices
The Gods themselves throw Incense.

Lear. Have I caught ye?
He that parts us must bring a Brand from Heav'n:
Together we'll out-toil the Spight of Hell,
And die the Wonders of the World; away.

(Exeunt guarded.)

Flourish. Enter before the Tents. Albany, Goneril,
Regan, Guards and Attendants; Goneril speaking
apart to the Captain of the Guards entering.

Gon. Here's Gold for thee, thou know'st our late Com-
mand
Upon your Prisoner's Lives; about it straight, and at
Our Ev'ning Banquet let it raise our Mirth,
To hear that they are dead.

Capt. I shall not fail your Orders. *(Ex.*
(Albany, Gon. Reg. take their Seats.
Alb.

Alb. Now, *Gloster*, trust to thy single Virtue, for thy
Soldiers

All levied in my Name, have in my Name
Took their Discharge; now let our Trumpets speak,
And Herald read out this, (*Herald Reads.*)

*If any Man of Quality, within the Lists of the Army will
maintain upon Edmund, suppos'd Earl of Gloster, that
he is a manifold Traitor, let him appear by the third
Sound of the Trumpet; he is bold in his Defence———
Again, Again.*

(*Trumpets answer from within.*)

Enter Edgar Arm'd.

Alb. Lord *Edgar*!

Bast. Ha! my Brother!

This is the only combatant that I cou'd fear;
For in my Breast Guilt duels on his Side;
But, Conscience, what have I to do with thee?
Awe thou thy dull legitimate Slaves, but I
Was born a Libertine, and so I keep me.

Edg. My noble Prince a Word:—e'er we engage
Into your Highness's Hands I give this Paper,
It will the Truth of my Impeachment prove,
Whatever be my Fortune in the Fight.

Alb. We shall peruse it.

Edg. Now, *Edmund*, draw thy Sword,
That if my Speech has wrong'd a noble Heart,
Thy Arm may do thee Justice: Here i'th' Presence
Of this high Prince, these Queens, and this crown'd List,
I brand thee with the spotted Name of Traitor,
False to thy Gods, thy Father, and thy Brother,
And what is more, thy Friend; false to this Prince:
If then thou shar'st a Spark of *Gloster's* Virtue,
Acquit thy self; or if thou shar'st his Courage,
Meet this Defiance bravely.

Bast. And dares *Edgar*,
The beaten routed *Edgar*, brave his Conqueror?
From all thy Troops and thee I forc'd the Field;
Thou hast lost the general Stake, and art thou now

Come

Come with thy petty single Stock to play
This After-game?

Edg. Half-blooded Man,
Thy Father's Sin first, then his Punishment;
The dark and vicious Place where he begot thee
Cost him his Eyes; from thy licentious Mother
Thou draw'st thy Villainy; but for thy Part
Of *Gloster's* Blood, I hold thee worth my Sword.

Bast. Thou bear'st thee on thy Mother's Piety,
Which I despise; thy Mother being chaste
Thou art assur'd thou art but *Gloster's* Son;
But mine, disdaining Constancy, leaves me
To hope that I am sprung from nobler Blood,
And possible a King might be my Sire:
But be my Birth's uncertain Chance as 'twill,
Who 'twas that had the Hit to Father me
I know not; 'tis enough that I am I:
Of this one Thing I'm certain,—that I have
A daring Soul, and so have at thy Heart.
Sound Trumpet. (*Fight, Bastard falls.*)

Gon. and *Reg.* Save him, save him.

Gon. This was Practice, *Gloster*,
Thou won't the Field, and wast not bound to fight
A vanquish'd Enemy. Thou art not conquer'd,
But couz'n'd and betray'd.

Alb. Shut your Mouth, Lady,
Or with this Paper I shall stop it.—Hold, Sir,
Thou worse than any Name, read thy own Evil:
No tearing, Lady, I perceive you know it.

Gon. Say, if I do, who shall arraign me for't?
The Laws are mine, not thine.

Alb. Most monstrous! Ha! Thou know'st it too?

Bast. Ask me not what I know,
I have not Breath to answer idle Questions.

Alb. I have resolv'd—your Right, brave Sir, has
conquer'd, (*To Edgar.*)
Along with me, I must consult your Father.

(*Ex. Albany and Edgar.*)

Reg. Help every Hand to save a noble Life;
My half o'th' Kingdom for a Man of Skill

To stop this precious Stream.

Bast. Away, ye Empyricks,

Torment me not with your vain Offices:

The Sword has pierc'd too far; *Legitimacy*

At last has got it.

Reg. The Pride of Nature dies.

Gon. Away, the Minutes are too precious,
Disturb us not with thy impertinent Sorrow.

Reg. Art thou my Rival then profest?

Gon. Why, was our Love a Secret? cou'd there be
Beauty like mine, and Gallantry like his,
And not a mutual Love? Just Nature then
Had err'd. Behold that Copy of Perfection,
That Youth whose Story will have no foul Page,
But where it says he stoop'd to *Regan's* Arms:
Which yet was but Compliance, not Affection;
A Charity to begging, ruin'd Beauty!

Reg. Who begg'd when *Goneril* writ That? expose it,
(*Throws her a Letter.*)

And let it be your Army's mirth, as 'twas
This charming Youth's and mine, when in the Bow'r
He breath'd the warmest Extasies of Love;
Then panting on my Breast, cry'd, matchless *Regan*!
That *Goneril* and thou shou'd e'er be Kin!

Gon. Die, *Circe*, for thy Charms are at an end,
Expire before my Face, and let me see
How well that boasted Beauty, will become
Congealing Blood, and Death's convulsive Pangs:
Die, and be hush'd, for at my Tent last Night
Thou drank'st thy Bane, amidst thy rev'ling Bowls:
Ha! Dost thou smile? Is then thy Death thy Sport?
Or has the trusty Potion made thee Mad?

Reg. Thou com'st as short of me in thy Revenge
As in my *Gloster's* Love, my Jealousie
Inspir'd me to prevent thy feeble Malice,
And poison thee at thy own Banquet.

Gon. Ha!

Bast. No more, my Queens, of this untimely Strife,
You both deserve my Love, and both possess it.
Come, Soldiers, bear me in; and let

Your

Your Royal Presence grace my last Minutes;
 Now, *Edgar*, thy proud Conquest I forgive;
 Who wou'd not chuse, like me, to yield his Breath
 T' have Rival Queens contend for him in Death?

(*Exeunt.*)

S C E N E, *A Prison.*

Lear asleep, with his Head on Cordelia's Lap.

Cord. What Toils, thou wretched King, hast thou endur'd

To make thee draw in Chains, a Sleep so sound?
 Thy better Angel charm thy ravish'd Mind
 With fancy'd Freedom; Peace is us'd to lodge
 On Cottage Straw. Thou hast the Beggar's Bed,
 Therefore shou'dst have the Beggar's careless Thought.
 And now, my *Edgar*, I remember thee,
 What Fate has seiz'd thee in this general Wreck,
 I know not, but I know thou must be wretched,
 Because *Cordelia* holds thee dear.
 O Gods! a sudden Gloom o'erwhelms me, and the Image
 Of Death o'er-spreads the Place—Ha! who are these?

Enter Captain and Officers, with Cords.

Capt. Now, 'Sirs, dispatch, already you are paid
 In Part, the best of your Reward's to come.

Lear. Charge, charge upon their Flank, their last
 Wing halts.

Push, push the Battle, and the Day's our own.
 Their Ranks are broke, down with *Albany*.
 Who holds my Hands?—O thou deceiving Sleep,
 I was this very Minute on the Chase;
 And now a Prisoner here—What mean the Slaves?
 You will not murder me?

Cord. Help, Earth and Heaven!
 For your Soul's sake, dear Sirs, and for the Gods.

Offi. No Tears, good Lady, no pleading against Gold
 and Preferment.

Come, Sirs, make ready your Cords.

Cord.

Cord. You, Sir, I'll seize,
 You have a human Form, and if no Pray'rs
 Can touch your Soul to spare a poor King's Life,
 If there be any Thing that you hold dear,
 By that I beg you to dispatch me first.

Capt. Comply with her Request ; dispatch her first.

Lear. Off Hell-hounds, by the Gods I charge you
 spare her ;

'Tis my *Cordelia*, my true pious Daughter :
 No Pity ?—Nay, then take an old Man's Vengeance.

*(Snatches a Partisan, and strikes down two of them ; the
 rest quit Cordelia, and turn upon him.)*

Enter Edgar and Albany.

Edg. Death ! Hell ! ye Vultures, hold your impious
 Hands,

Or take a speedier Death than you wou'd give.

Capt. By whose Command ?

Edg. Behold the Duke your Lord.

Alb. Guards, seize those Instruments of Cruelty.

Cord. My *Edgar*, Oh !

Edg. My dear *Cordelia* ! Lucky was the Minute
 Of our Approach, the Gods have weigh'd our Suff'rings ;
 W'are past the Fire, and now must shine to Ages.

Gent. Look here, my Lord, see where the generous
 King

Has slain two of 'em.

Lear. Did I not, Fellow ?

I've seen the Day, with my good biting Faulchion,
 I cou'd have made them skip ; I am old now,
 And these vile Crosses spoil me ; out of Breath ?
 Fie, Oh ! quite out of Breath, and spent.

Alb. Bring in old *Kent* ; and, *Edgar*, guide you hither
 Your Father, whom you said was near, *(Ex. Edgar.)*
 He may be an Ear-witness at the least
 Of our Proceedings. *(Kent brought in here.)*

Lear. Who are you ?

My Eyes are none o'th' best, I'll tell you straight ;
 Oh *Albany* ! Well, Sir, we are your Captives,
 And you are come to see Death pass upon us.
 Why this Delay ?—or is't your Highness' Pleasure

To give us first the Torture? say ye so?
 Why here's old *Kent* and I, as tough a Pair
 As e'er bore Tyrant's Stroke:—But my *Cordelia*,
 My poor *Cordelia*, here, O pity!—

Alb. Take off their Chains.—Thou injur'd Majesty,
 The Wheel of Fortune now has made her Circle,
 And Blessings yet stand 'twixt thy Grave and thee.

Lear. Com'st thou, inhuman Lord, to sooth us back
 To a Fool's Paradise of Hope, to make
 Our Doom more wretched? Go too, we are too well
 Acquainted with Misfortune to be gull'd
 With lying Hope; No, we will hope no more.

Alb. I have a Tale, t'unfold so full of Wonder
 As cannot meet an easy Faith;
 But by that Royal injur'd Head 'tis true.

Kent. What wou'd your Highness?

Alb. Know, the noble *Edgar*
 Impeach'd Lord *Edmund* since the Fight, of Treason,
 And dar'd him for the Proof to single Combat,
 In which the Gods confirm'd his Charge by Conquest;
 I left ev'n now the Traitor wounded mortally.

Lear. And whither tends this Story?

Alb. E'er they fought
 Lord *Edgar* gave into my hands this Paper,
 A blacker Scrawl of Treason, and of Lust,
 Than can be found in the Records of Hell;
 There, sacred Sir, behold the Character
 Of *Goneril*, the worst of Daughters, but
 More vicious Wife.

Cord. Cou'd there be yet addition to their Guilt?
 What will not they that wrong a Father do?

Alb. Since then my Injuries, *Lear*, fall in with thine,
 I have resolv'd the same Redress for both.

Kent. What says my Lord?

Cord. Speak, for methought I heard
 The charming Voice of a descending God.

Alb. The Troops by *Edmund* rais'd, I have disbanded;
 Those that remain are under my Command.
 What Comfort may be brought to chear your Age,
 And heal your savage Wrongs, shall be apply'd;
 For to your Majesty we do resign

Your

Your Kingdom, save what Part your self conferr'd
On us in Marriage.

Kent. Hear you that, my Leige ?

Cord. Then there are Gods, and Virtue is their Care.

Lear. Is't possible ?

Let the Spheres stop their Course, the Sun make halt,
The Winds be hush'd, the Seas and Fountains rest ;
All Nature pause, and listen to the Change.

Where is my *Kent*, my *Cajus* ?

Kent. Here, my Liege.

Lear. Why I have News that will recal thy Youth ;
Ha! didst thou hear't, or did th' inspiring Gods
Whisper to me alone ? Old *Lear* shall be
A King again.

Kent. The Prince that like a God has Pow'r, has said it.

Lear. *Cordelia* then shall be a Queen, mark that.

Cordelia shall be a Queen ; Winds catch the Sound,
And bear it on your rosy Wings to Heav'n.

Cordelia is a Queen.

Re-enter Edgar with Gloster.

Alb. Look, Sir, where pious *Edgar* comes,
Leading his Eye-less Father : O my Leige !
His wond'rous Story will deserve you Leisure ;
What he has done and suffer'd for your Sake,
What for the fair *Cordelia*'s.

Gloft. Where is my Liege ? Conduct me to his Knees
to hail

His second Birth of Empire ; my dear *Edgar*,
Has, with himself, reveal'd the King's blest Restauration.

Lear. My poor dark *Gloster*.

Gloft. O let me kiss that once more sceptred Hand !

Lear. Hold, thou mistak'st the Majesty, kneel here ;
Cordelia has our Pow'r, *Cordelia*'s Queen.
Speak, is not that the noble suffering *Edgar* ?

Gloft. My pious Son, more dear than my lost Eyes !

Lear. I wrong'd him too, but here's the fair Amends.

Edg. Your Leave, my Liege, for an unwelcome Message.
Edmund (but that's a Trifle) is expir'd ;
What more will touch you, your imperious Daughters
Goneril and haughty *Regan*, both are dead,

Each

Each by the other poison'd at a Banquet ;
This, dying, they confest.

Cord. O fatal Period of ill govern'd Life!

Lear. Ingrateful as they were, my Heart feels yet
A Pang of Nature for their wretched Fall ; —————
But *Edgar*, I defer thy Joys too long :

Thou serv'd distrest *Cordelia* ; take her crown'd :
Th' imperial Grace fresh blooming on her Brow ;
Nay, *Gloster*, thou hast here a Father's Right,
Thy helping Hand t' heap Blessings on their Heads.

Kent. Old *Kent* throws in his hearty Wishes too.

Edg. The Gods and you too largely recompence
What I have done ; the Gift strikes Merit dumb.

Cord. Nor do I blush to own my self o'er-paid
For all my sufferings past.

Gloster. Now, gentle Gods, give *Gloster* his Discharge.

Lear. No, *Gloster*, thou hast Business yet for Life ;
Thou, *Kent*, and I, retir'd to some close Cell,
Will gently pass our short Reserves of Time
In calm Reflections on our Fortunes past,
Cheer'd with Relation of the prosperous Reign
Of this celestial Pair ; thus our Remains
Shall in an even Course of Thought be past,
Enjoy the present Hour, nor fear the last.

Edg. Our drooping Country now erects her Head,
Peace spreads her balmy Wings, and Plenty blooms.
Divine *Cordelia*, all the Gods can witness
How much thy Love to Empire I prefer !
Thy bright Example shall convince the World
(Whatever Storms of Fortune are decreed)
That Truth and Virtue shall at last succeed.

(*Exeunt Omnes*)

F I N I S.



